

Documentary History  
of the  
Campaign on the  
Niagara Frontier  
IN 1814.  
(WITH PLANS.)

Edited for the Lundy's Lane  
Historical Society  
By Capt. E. Cruikshank, Fort Erie.

PART II.  
PRICE, 75 CENTS.  
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## PLANS.

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	<i>Page.</i>
Plan of the Siege Operations at Fort Erie, Aug. 1—Sept. 24, 1814.....	228
Plan of the Entrenched Camp at Fort Erie.....	302

THE DOCUMENTARY  
HISTORY OF THE CAMPAIGN

—ON THE—

NIAGARA FRONTIER IN 1814.

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PART II.

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*EDITED FOR THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

**BY CAPT. E. CRUIKSHANK.**

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WELLAND:

PRINTED AT THE TRIBUNE OFFICE.

## PART II.

# The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier in 1814.

### Return of Casualties of the Right Division of the Army in Action with the Enemy.

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, September 17, 1814.

Royal Artillery—9 rank and file missing.

Additional Gunners—De Watteville's Regiment—1 rank and file wounded; 10 rank and file missing.

1st or Royal Scots—8 rank and file killed; 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 30 rank and file, wounded; 2 sergeants, 15 rank and file, missing.

6th Foot—1 captain, 1 sergeant, 13 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 25 rank and file, wounded; 1 sergeant, 10 rank and file, missing.

8th Foot—1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 12 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant, 12 rank and file, wounded; 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, 1 ensign, 8 sergeants, 63 rank and file, missing.

82d Foot—2 sergeants, 10 rank and file, killed; 2 captains, 4 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 5 sergeants, 33 rank and file, wounded; 8 rank and file missing.

89th Foot—1 rank and file killed; 1 sergeant, 2 rank and file, wounded; 1 sergeant, 19 rank and file, missing.

De Watteville's Regiment—1 lieutenant, 3 sergeants, 58 rank and file, killed; 1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 captain, 3 lieutenants, 4 sergeants, 1 drummer 26 rank and file, wounded; 2 majors, 3 captains, 1 adjutant, 1 assistant-surgeon, 9 sergeants, 2 drummers, 146 rank and file, missing.

Glengarry Light Infantry—3 rank and file killed. 1 sergeant, 18 rank and file, wounded.

General total—1 captain, 2 lieutenants, 7 sergeants, 105 rank and file, killed; 3 lieutenant-colonels, 3 captains, 10 lieutenants, 1 ensign, 13 sergeants, 1 drummer, 117 rank and file, wounded; 2 majors, 4 captains, 3 lieutenants, 2 ensigns, 1 adjutant, 1 assistant-surgeon, 21 sergeants, 2 drummers, 280 rank and file, missing.

*Names of Officers Killed.*

6th Foot—Capt. R. D. Patteson.

8th Foot—Lieutenant Barstow.

De Watteville's Regiment—Lieutenant Pellichody.

*Wounded.*

Royal Scots—Lieut.-Colonel J. Gordon, severely; Lieut. J. Rutledge, (since dead).

6th Foot—Lieutenant Andrews, severely.

8th Foot—Lieutenant Lowry, severely.

82d Foot—Capt. J. M. Wright, (since dead); Capt. E. Marshall, slightly; Lieuts. H. Pigott, W. Mason, and Robert Lathom, severely; Lieut. Geo. Harman, slightly; Ensign C. Langford, (since dead).

De Watteville's—Lieut.-Col. Fischer, severely; Captain Mittelholzer, severely; Lieutenant Gingers, severely; Lieut. Steiger, slightly; Lieutenant LaPiere, severely.

Staff—Lieut.-Col. Thomas Pearson, Inspecting Field Officer, severely.

*Missing.*

8th Foot—Captain Bradbridge, Lieutenant McNair, Ensign Matthewson.

De Watteville's—Major De Villatte, Major Winter (wounded), Captains Zehender, Hecken and Steiger, Lieutenants DeBerry and Hecken (wounded), Adjutant Mermet, Assistant-Surgeon Corbea.

J. HARVEY,

Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

**Niles' Register, Vol. 10, Page 361.**

*(From the Boston Patriot.)*

During the siege of Fort Erie, our little army displayed more obstinate devotion to the character it had won on the plains of Chippawa, the heights of Bridgewater, and the entrenchments of Fort Erie, than can be found in the military history of any other country. It was customary for the officers commanding regiments, battalions, or companies, to volunteer for what was then called "piquet fights." They always terminated in driving the piquets of the enemy.

The solicitations for permission to engage in this kind of partizan warfare became so frequent and oftentimes so fatal to the officers commanding, that the generals who were successively in command determined to check that useless ardor, and resolved on granting no further indulgencies of the kind. At that time Colonel (then Major) Brooke, being officer of the day, after visiting our

advanced guards, came in and applied for leave to beat up the enemy's piquet. It was peremptorily refused. He pleaded the indulgence granted to others as being justly due to him, and the general commanding kindly assented. Brooke then selected about 100 men from his own command, dashed into the woods, met and drove the enemy with great slaughter, and discovered a new battery at an important point, which they were erecting under cover of the night. It became then an object of importance to annoy the fatigue parties employed on this new work, but very difficult to effect, from the thick woods concealing all their movements from the view of our lines.

Colonel Brooke, taking with him two dismounted dragoons and carrying in his hand a lantern covered with a watch coat, passed during the night their line of sentinels, ascended a tree which stood about six paces in front of the enemy's new battery, and fixed it there. A cord was attached to the watch coat, with which, when he had descended and reached the length of it, he drew the coat from the lantern, and creeping round the line of sentinels returned safe to camp. The American batteries, directed by the light of the lantern in the tree, opened their fire upon the unsuspecting workmen, who could not divine what secret spirit had betrayed the position of their laborers until they observed the light swinging in the air, nor then could form any conjecture by what daring hand it had been there suspended.

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**Niles' Register. Vol. 7, Page 124.**

*(From the Ontario Messenger.)*

The following interesting particulars of the extraordinary adventure and escape of Major General Porter in the action of the 17th ult., at the batteries, we have received from our correspondent at Fort Erie, who was in the action :—

General Porter's command on that day consisted of two columns. The right column was to attack the batteries in the rear. The left, which was stationed directly back of it, was kept in reserve to meet the reinforcements which were expected from the enemy's main army. General Porter was with the right column until the blockhouse and third battery were carried; he then set out, accompanied by only two or three persons, to go to the left column, where some skirmishing had already commenced with the reinforcements. He had proceeded but a short distance in the woods when he found himself within a few yards of 60 or 80 of the enemy who had just emerged from a ditch, and who, discovering probably that our troops were in their rear, stood formed in

two lines with their arms at rest, apparently hesitating which way to go or how to act. General Porter, finding himself within their power, and seeing that the occasion required resolution and decision, instantly left his company and running to them with the greatest boldness, exclaimed, "That's right, my good fellows, surrender and we will take care of you,"—and coming up to the man on the left he took his musket out of his hand and threw it on the ground, at the same time pushing him forward towards the fort. In this way he proceeded nearly through the first line, most of the men voluntarily throwing down their arms and advancing to the front, when all of a sudden a soldier, whose musket he was about to take, stepped back and, presenting his bayonet to General Porter's breast, demanded *his* surrender. The General seized the musket and was wresting it from him when he was assaulted by an officer who stood next in the ranks, and three or four soldiers, who after a short scuffle brought him to the ground. He, however, soon recovered his feet, when he found himself surrounded by 15 or 20 men with their guns presented to him, demanding his surrender. By this time several of our officers were advancing with their men to the scene of action, and General Porter, assuming an air of composure and decision, told the enemy that they were surrounded and prisoners, and that if they fired a gun they should all be put to the sword. Without venturing to fire, they still continued to vociferate, "Surrender, you are my prisoner," when Lieutenant Chatfield of the Cayuga Riflemen, who had got near the spot, ordered his men to fire. This drew their attention from the General, and after a momentary scene of confusion and carnage the enemy were all either killed or taken prisoners. In this affair Captain Knapp of the New York Volunteers was badly wounded by a musket ball in the side, and General Porter in the hand by the cut of a sword.

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**Niles' Register, Vol. 7, Page 136.**

It is stated in a letter received at Pittsfield in Massachusetts, from an officer who was by the side of General Ripley in the battle of the 17th ult., that all the troops participated in the action, and towards the close of it, as the general was at the head of the 23rd Regiment, then closely engaged at the distance of twenty yards from the enemy, he received a musket shot which penetrated through his neck between the throat and the spine, entering in front of the right artery and passing out behind the left artery. His aid conveyed him from the field of battle, insensible from loss of blood. On the 20th his recovery was considered doubtful.

*(From Adjutant-General's Report, New Hampshire, 1868.)*

**General James Miller to——**

FORT ERIE, Sept. 19, 1814.

I am thankful once more to say to you that I am alive and well, after another sore conflict with the enemy on Saturday last, the 16th inst. After suffering fifty days by the investment of the enemy, under a heavy cannonading from three batteries which enfiladed almost our whole camp, suffering the loss of a considerable number every day, it was determined to take their batteries by assault or storm. To effect this it was determined by Gen. Brown to send the riflemen under Col. Gibson, Major Brooke of the Twenty Third and four hundred men, Gen. Porter with the Volunteers and Militia, with a few Indians, round through the woods in their rear, and for me with Ninth, Eleventh and Nineteenth Regiments to attack in front, to press through two of the batteries and form a junction with those in the rear or attack the batteries, as the case might require. General Ripley was to remain in reserve. My signal to move was the firing of those in the rear, as I had taken post about fifty rods in front of the enemy, in a ravine. The columns were opposed before they arrived at either of the batteries. I was ordered to advance and get into the enemy's works before the column had beaten the enemy sufficiently to meet us at the batteries. We had no alternative but to fall on them, beat them, and take them. This was a sore job for us. My command consisted of the Ninth, Eleventh and Nineteenth Regiments. Colonel Aspinwall commanded the Ninth and Nineteenth, and Colonel Bedel the Eleventh. Colonel Aspinwall lost his left arm, Major Trimble of the Nineteenth was severely, I believe mortally, wounded through the body; Captain Hale of the Eleventh killed; Captain Ingersoll of the Ninth wounded in the head, and eight other officers severely wounded, some of them mortally. Colonel Bedel was the only officer higher than a lieutenant in my whole command but what was killed or wounded. I escaped again unhurt. Our loss was betwixt 400 and 500 killed, wounded and prisoners. We took 385 prisoners, besides what we killed and wounded. We took two twenty-four pounders and a sixty-four pound carronade and a ten and a half inch mortar, drove them so hard that they spiked a twenty-four pounder themselves, and so completely routed them they have retreated back to Chippawa in disgust. We now live in peace. Deserters from them since say that their loss was estimated at rising 1,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners. . . . Since I came into Canada this time. . . . every major save one, every lieutenant-colonel, every colonel that

was here when I came and has remained here, has been killed or wounded, and I am now the only general officer out of seven that has escaped.

---

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Colonel Baynes.**

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE,  
September 19th, 1814.

I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency, the Commander of the Forces, that a body of the enemy returned to Port Talbot on the 5th inst., accompanied by the traitor Westbrook and some Indians. After burning the mills there and several houses and barns, (amongst which was that of Colonel Burwell of the Militia,) and destroying all Colonel Talbot's flour and killing several of his cattle, they advanced down the Talbot road about 15 miles, plundering and paroling the inhabitants. They then retreated to the Moravian town, about 28 miles from Port Talbot, to await the arrival of reinforcements from Detroit. When it appears (from the information of spies who have been amongst them) to be their intention to advance to Long Point, where, should they succeed in destroying the several mills in that neighborhood, the consequences will be most severely felt by the inhabitants and troops of the Right Division in particular.

Colonel Talbot has detached Captain Bostwick and 60 men of the Militia to assist the settlers in checking the advance of the enemy again.

The infamous disposition of the enemy cannot be more strongly evinced than in the wanton burning the buildings of Colonel Burwell, whom they have already carried off as a prisoner on a former occasion.

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**Major General Brown to Governor Tompkins.**

FORT ERIE, September 20th, 1814.

SIR,—Your Excellency is no doubt aware how much the army under my command has suffered from the fire of the enemy's batteries, of which the first and second were not more than 500 yards distant. Soon after my arrival I ascertained that they were night and day employed in erecting a third, to the right of the others, which could rake obliquely our whole encampment. About the 12th this new work was nearly completed, and in it were mounted some long twenty-four pounders. Being very impatient under the fire of the old, and knowing that our difficulties would

increase from the opening of a new battery, I determined to hazard a sortie with a view of carrying them and destroying the cannon. On the 17th an order was given to this effect, and executed in the most gallant style. The batteries were carried, the principal work blown up, and the cannon effectually destroyed. It was a desperate conflict. The loss of the enemy cannot be less than 800 men. Our own is severe, in officers particularly. The Militia of New York have redeemed their character; they behaved gallantly. General Davis was killed and General Porter slightly wounded in the hand. Of the Militia that were called out by the last requisition fifteen hundred have crossed. This reinforcement has been of immense importance to us. It doubled our effective strength, and their good conduct can but have the happiest effect upon the nation. These brave men deserve well of their country, and I flatter myself that the Legislature about to convene will notice them, as becomes the representatives of a generous people.

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**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE, 21st Sept., 1814.

SIR,—Within these last few days the sickness of the troops has increased to such an alarming degree, and their situation has really become one of such extreme wretchedness from the torrents of rain which have continued to fall for the last 13 days, and from the circumstance of the division being entirely destitute of camp equipage, that I feel it to be my duty no longer to persevere in a vain attempt to maintain a blockade of so vastly a superior and increasing a force of the enemy. I have therefore given orders for the troops to fall back towards the Chippawa, and shall commence my movement at eight o'clock this evening, at which hour the troops will take up a position about a mile in rear of their present camp, and in which, if attacked by the enemy tomorrow morning, the brave handful of troops which I command will at least have the advantage of fighting on ground tolerably open, whereas their present camp literally resembles a lake in the midst of a thick wood. It has been reported that a column of the enemy has been moving on the Lake Road towards Tyce Horns; should he detach a strong column by that road, and at the same time attack in front, I shall, if made with resolution, be a good deal embarrassed, as my numbers are reduced to considerably less than 2,000 firelocks.

The greatest part of the sick and all other encumbrances are by this time far on their way to Chippawa, and I hope to be able

to move as far as Black Creek to-morrow with the whole of the troops.

I have already acquainted Your Excellency with the alarming state to which Fort Niagara has been reduced by the late unprecedented heavy rains. I have this day received undoubted information of the movement of part of General Izard's army upon Fort Erie. These untoward circumstances, together with want of ammunition and my increasing difficulties with respect to provisions, added to the protracted period to which we have to look for supplies and reinforcements by the squadron from Kingston, and the rapidly increasing force of the enemy, altogether render my situation and that of the whole of this frontier extremely critical. Of the militia which have been called out on the opposite frontier, the enemy has had the address to induce three-fourths to cross over to Fort Erie, in which, by every information which I have been able to obtain, he has not at this moment less than 3,000 of that description of force, exclusive of a regular force of nearly the same amount on this frontier. I have not been able to force out half as many hundreds betwixt this place and Burlington.

I state these circumstances to shew Your Excellency the absolute necessity of the measure which I have been under the necessity of adopting.

With a view to enable me to relieve some of the exhausted corps with this division, I have directed Major-General Kempt to send up the Canadian Fencibles or any other corps of the Centre Division which he may consider from numbers or efficiency better calculated for the severe service of this frontier.

In the meantime I have detached the remainder of the King's Regiment and battalion companies of De Watteville's to reinforce the forts. If the rain continues (of which there is every appearance) for a very short time, the engineer officer has serious apprehensions that the whole of the earthworks will come down, and in the present state of the weather it is impossible to do anything to check or repair the damage.

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21st September, 1814, 3 P. M.

*Private Memorandum:*

The troops will change ground and take a position near Frenchman's Creek, the left of which is at present occupied by the 97th Regiment. An officer of the quarter-master-general's department will point out the ground and lead the columns. They will move there this evening immediately after tattoo has sounded.

All fires to be left burning and huts standing. No tents to be left standing on any account.

The picquets are at the same time to fall back to the open ground on the left of the concession road, where the old reserve used to be posted, from whence they will further retire after the troops have taken up their new position to another, guided by an officer of the staff who will be sent for that purpose.

J. HARVEY,  
D. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS, GANDER'S,  
23rd September, 1814.

*District General Order.*

Arrangement:

<i>Corps.</i>	<i>Station.</i>
19th Light Dragoons . . . . .	Andrew Miller's, with advance parties on that road and toward Frenchman's Creek.
Glengarry Light Infantry . . . . .	
Incorporated Militia . . . . .	Palmer's, with one company advanced to Adrew Miller's, to support the Cavalry.
Western Indians . . . . .	Palmer's and adjacent.
97th Regiment . . . . .	do. do. do.
Two 6-pd. field pieces . . . . .	Black Creek.
1st Batt. Royal Scots . . . . .	do. do.
One 8-pd. and detachment of rocketeers . . . . .	Street's Grove and adjacent.
6th Regiment . . . . .	do. do. do.
Two 24-pounders . . . . .	Chippawa.
One 6-pounder . . . . .	do.
One howitzer . . . . .	
82nd Regiment . . . . .	Lundy's Lane.
89th Regiment . . . . .	Queenston.
104th Flank Co.'s . . . . .	
De Watteville's . . . . .	The Forts.
King's . . . . .	
41st Regiment . . . . .	Burlington.
103rd . . . . .	

Major-General Stovin will be pleased to fix his headquarters at or in the immediate neighborhood of Fort George.

Major-General DeWatteville will be considered as in the imme-

diate command of the troops at or in advance of Chippawa, and will place his headquarters to some convenient point, to be notified to Major-General Stovin and the Lieutenant-General Commanding.

J. HARVEY, D. A. G.,

NOTE.—Major-General DeWatteville's headquarters are at Gander's, one mile below Black Creek. Those of the Lieutenant-General Commanding at Forsyth's, near the Falls.

### Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,  
FALLS OF NIAGARA, 24th Sept., 1814.

The troops fell back at 8 o'clock on the evening of the 21st to the position alluded to in my letter of that date, and bivouacked for the night under torrents of rain. Soon after daylight on the 22nd the enemy discovered our movement, and pushed out his picquets. They were soon met by our picquets posted on the plain opposite Black Rock, and immediately retreated after exchanging a few shots without attempting to molest them. Having waited until two o'clock, as well for the purpose of giving battle to the enemy, should he have ventured out, as for giving time for the movement of all encumbrances behind the Black Creek, I ordered the troops to retire across Frenchman's Creek, and the bridge across that creek to be destroyed. A cavalry picquet was left to watch this bridge, and the troops then proceeded to take up their cantonments as described in the enclosed order and sketch. The whole of the movement has this day been completed, and the troops are now in comfortable quarters, where it is my intention to give them a few days' repose. By a reference to the map Your Excellency will perceive that the position which the troops occupy extends on the left to within three miles of Fort Erie, and by Miller's Road on the right limits the enemy's incursions (in the event of his venturing so far) to a distance of less than nine miles, which space has long ago been completely exhausted of its resources. Should the enemy attempt to penetrate toward Chippawa, (in force,) he will be first met by Major-General De Watteville at Black Creek with the 97th Regiment and Royals, the Glengarry Light Infantry, Incorporated Militia and Indians, with two 6-pounders and a squadron of Dragoons. I can have no apprehensions of his making any impression or meeting with anything but defeat. If found necessary, however, General De Watteville falls back upon Chippawa, where, with the 6th and 82nd Regiments and four additional field-pieces, and the natural strength of that position, I will not suppose it



possible for any numbers to make any impression. The advantage therefore of this distribution of the troops in a defensive point of view, will, I think, strike Your Excellency. With regard to offensive operations, particularly if it be undertaken on the other side of the river, it would enable me to masquerade the movement of my whole force except a few dragoons and light troops left at the outposts. It also leaves a large portion of my force disposable for the left of my line, (Fort George, &c.,) and equally would enable me to collect the whole more rapidly on either flank. I have stationed Major-General Stovin on the left, in the forts. My own headquarters I have placed as near the centre as possible (at the Falls.) I propose going to inspect the state of the forts, particularly Fort Niagara, to-morrow morning. My utmost attention is given to that post, which, by all accounts, is perfectly open. I will communicate more fully after I have seen it. Your Excellency will find, from the enclosed copy of letter from Captain Hill of the 41st. that the first division of prisoners of war taken on Lake Erie and at the Moravian village have at length been sent across at Long Point.

**Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,  
FALLS OF NIAGARA, 24th Sept., 1814.

SIR, -- Your Excellency's letters of the 15th and 16th, brought by Captain Rainsford, 104th, reached me last night. To that which enclosed private letters you did me the honor to address to me in answer to mine of the 17th ultimo, I shall have the honor of returning a separate reply. In proceeding to notice the contents of the other two, I am to observe that no communication has been received from the Adjutant-General relative to the duties of an Assistant Provost. I shall defer the appointment which Your Excellency is pleased to authorize me to make for the Right Division until I have received the communication alluded to.

The observations contained in the concluding paragraph of the letter of the 15th, (in Your Excellency's own handwriting,) embrace a wide field. As, however, any attempt at the realization of the proposed plan must depend upon a contingency which has not yet happened, viz.: the fall of Fort Erie, it may be sufficient for the present to observe that, with regard to Amherstburg, the difficulty probably consists more in the deficiency of provisions and transport than of any other means. The same difficulty must be equally applicable to every other operation in this country, as it prevents the collection at any point of an adequate force for any object.

These difficulties we must continue to experience until our squadron appears superior on the lake, and even then the transport which Commodore Sir James Yeo may think it prudent to afford the department's will, I fear, prove very inadequate to the relief of all the wants of this division.

I quite agree with Your Excellency that Upper Canada, particularly when we have the command of Lake Ontario, will offer the best theatre for our operations against the enemy. Sackett's Harbor is the object on which our eyes should be steadily fixed, but it is no longer in that state that admits of any other attack than that of the most regular and powerful description. In inviting my support to be given to Major-General Kempt, I could have wished Your Excellency had been more explicit as to the nature of the support which may be expected of me. The personal esteem which I entertain for Major-General Kempt is not wanting to stimulate the zealous desire, which I trust I have always felt, to promote not only such an enterprise as that of which the preparations have been committed to him, but every enterprise which has for its object the annoyance of the enemy. I have been in correspondence with Major-General Kempt, and am fully prepared to receive any further communication on the subject with which Your Excellency may favor me. With regard to Presqu' Isle, any enterprise against that place is at present wholly impracticable. I feel a strong conviction, however, (and have communicated that impression to Sir James Yeo,) that Captain Dobbs, if 200 more seamen, with five or six proper boats, were placed at his disposal, would recover the naval ascendancy on Lake Erie (by attacking the enemy's two brigs at anchor off Fort Erie, with as much ease and as much certainty of success as he effected the capture of the two schooners.)

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**Mrs. Hannah Jenoway to her Sister-in-law.**

HOPE COTTAGE, FORT GEORGE,

14th September, 1814.

MY DEAR SISTER,—It is with great pleasure I write these lines to you of our good fortune so far, and I hope and trust in the Almighty for its continuance. It is now five months since your brother was made Assistant Engineer at this place, and I am glad to say his emoluments are very great, and so are his exertions. I only fear he will be ill with his great assiduity. We are now living in a cottage of his own building. I assure you I am quite delighted with it, but am greatly afraid of our good luck not lasting long, as it seems to me to be too good to remain any length of time. We

have a fine horse and carriage of the country, which just holds our family and a little baggage. I have now been with my husband three months, which is the longest period we have been together since we came to Canada. After I left Mrs. Robinson's family at Kingston, which was on the eleventh of December, Mr. Jenoway having got leave of absence for three weeks to take us up to York, where I remained at a boarding school, I had one room and boarded with the family, and paid at the rate of one hundred a year. I stopped until the sixth of June, when I left to join my husband, who was at Queenston, having been ordered from Fort George to erect fortifications there. I had only been there a fortnight when five thousand of the Yankees landed above Fort Erie. Mr. Jenoway was left to command Queenston and the fortifications he had constructed, but unfortunately our army had to retire after a hard battle, with only fifteen hundred of the British to oppose so many of the enemy: consequently your brother had to blow up the batteries and make the best of his way to Fort George with his men and guns. Previous to that, about nine o'clock in the night, I was obliged to make my retreat with the children. When we had got four miles from Queenston, six Indians rushed out of the bush and asked me for my money. The servant was so frightened that he durst not speak to them, but I had courage enough to make them understand I was an officer's lady, when they immediately went away. You may easily suppose what a tremor I was in. On we went towards the Twelve. Before we got within six miles of it our servant upset us. Fortunately we had no limbs broken, only much bruised. We were near a Mr. Thompson's, where we staid three weeks, with the Yankees within four miles of us, and [they] came a few times within a mile and-a-half of us. After the Americans had retired to St. David's and Queenston, my dear husband fetched us to Fort George, made the family a present of twenty dollars and drove off. My poor little Michael and his brother is, and have been for several weeks, alarmingly ill of the ague and lake fever. It is a second attack on him. There are several men, women and children sick of it at this time. It is nearly as bad here for that disease as in (illegible) only not so dangerous. Hannah is very well and grows a fine girl, but very backward in her talking. Your brother has pretty good health at present, but is almost hurried off his legs. I assure you he is so very much employed that I have little of his company, as he has the entire command of the Engineer's Department at Fort Missasagua and Fort George. The former is a large, new post, which he had the direction of at the commencement, and [is] considered the largest and of most importance of any in Upper Canada.

Address to us, R. O. Jenoway, First Battalion Royal Scots, Fort George, or elsewhere, Upper Canada, America.

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**Report of Col. W. L. Churchill's Regiment, 17th September, 1814.**

Col. W. L. Churchill and the officers under his command desire to have mention made of their bravery. Col. Churchill and Major Wills behaved with undaunted courage and the greatest steadiness until about the close of the action, when they unfortunately fell into the hands of the enemy and were made prisoners. Major S. Kellogg likewise behaved worthy of praise, until General Davis fell near him, about the close of the action. He was then engaged in moving him off the battleground, with the assistance of Major Dunham of Col. Crosby's Regiment. They secured their retreat with the General into our camp. Qt. M. O. Wilcox, who volunteered as aide-de-camp to General Davis, during the day discovered great activity and steadiness.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

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**Jasper Parrish to General Porter.**

BUFFALO, Sept. 18, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—On the night of the 16th inst. one of our Indians, viz.: a Deleware who was taken prisoner by the enemy at the Chippaway battle, made his escape by crossing the Niagara on a raft from the upper part of the rapids, near Fort Erie, and landed below Squaw Island. He brings no information, except that the enemy are numerous and that part of their Indians have left them and have gone home. He also states that provision is very scarce. Some part of the time they draw half rations.

N. B.—This Indian whom I speak of arrived ten days since from Burlington Heights. He does not know what number of Indians there is at that place.

It was out of my power to prevail on the Tuscarora Indians to cross. 27 in number were at this place, and have returned home. Two Indian warriors arrived here yesterday from Cattaragus, (say the old war chief and one other.) I have not been able to get any information whether there was any more coming from that part or any other, excepting a few from this place, which you may expect over as soon as the weather will permit.

I still remain in ill health, but in hopes of gaining soon. I have a slow fever daily.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.**

NORTHERN ARMY HEADQUARTERS,

BATAVIA, September 28th, 1814.

SIR,—On the 21st instant the fleet, under Commodore Chauncey, sailed in the forenoon from Sackett's Harbor, and the wind favoring us we were off the mouth of the Genesee River the next morning early. The troops were all disembarked before night and encamped near the lake. Every exertion was used to collect a sufficient number of wagons and horses for the transportation of our camp equipage and provisions, but our appearance being unexpected, and that part of the country thinly peopled, it was not until the 24th that we could resume our march. Part of the tents and stores were unavoidably left, to follow as fast as means could be procured for the purpose. Through excessively bad roads and amidst continued and heavy rains, we proceeded, the officers of every grade, with very few exceptions, being dismounted. On the 26th, some hours before night, the whole of our corps arrived in good spirits at this village, and with a less proportion of men disabled for immediate duty than could under such circumstances have been expected.

It was not until I had been here part of a day that I received a letter from General Brown, for the first time since we sailed from Sackett's Harbor. His messenger had sought me at the 18 Mile Creek and at Genesee River.

The successful sortie of the 17th, which I now learnt, would have induced me to remain on the Ridge Road, in order to approach Fort Niagara with less fatigue to the men. The want of artillery, however, would have rendered the attack impracticable until I should be supplied from Buffalo and the little arsenal at this place.

Yesterday I met Major-General Brown by appointment, and obtained from him such details as are necessary for the concert of our proceedings. Lieutenant-General Drummond's further operations against Fort Erie are in all probability abandoned for this campaign. He is reported to have destroyed the bridges at Frenchman's Creek and Chippawa, and to have covered himself with his field works on the latter stream. His effective force probably does not exceed three thousand men, besides the garrisons of Forts George, Niagara, and their dependencies, and these cannot be complete. I have therefore determined on besieging Fort Niagara, while Brown's division (which is not a little reduced by the numerous and sanguinary conflicts in which it has been engaged,) shall hold him in check on the western side of the strait. We shall be but badly furnished with artillery. With the exception of one heavy twenty-four pounder on a truck carriage at Fort Erie, there

are no pieces of larger calibre than eighteens, and these light, and their carriages wanting repairs. I have directed the latter to be commenced immediately, and in as short a time as possible shall transport towards Lewiston, by land and water, six or eight of the eighteen pounders, and the only two mortars which can be found. With these I hope after a few days of open trenches to restore to the United States the shamefully lost Fortress of Niagara. My intention is yet a secret to all but Major-General Brown and my Chief Engineer, Major Totten. I shall endeavor to mislead the enemy into a belief that I am about to land a force on the north side of Lake Erie in order to possess myself of Burlington Heights.

The detachments which I was obliged to forward by land from Sackett's Harbor cannot be expected in less than a week; neither will the squadron of Light Dragoons join us sooner. The roads and weather oppose any rapid movement. Indeed, when I look back on the distance which we have come since we left our position in front of a superior enemy on the Champlain line, I am surprised at the little time and few accidents which have attended our progress.

The experience of the last campaign proves the necessity of adopting timely measures for the accommodation and comfort of the troops during the winter. Disease consequent on the severity of the climate, exposure at a late season and bad diet, destroyed ten times more men than fell by the hands of the enemy. The force now assembling on this frontier, small as it is in numbers, is great in value to the United States. It should not be forgotten that they were raw recruits only a few months ago, and that they have been engaged in active service ever since. Their instruction as soldiers is consequently far from what it might be, although the essentials of soldiership—as obedience, hardihood and courage—are theirs. In the repose of winter quarters they can acquire what is yet alone wanting to render them equal, if not superior, to any troops on earth. Round these may be assembled the recruits from the interior. The officers of all grades should be made to remain with them. Applications for leave of absence, except made in very urgent circumstances should be refused. In this manner discipline and order will be established, the many individuals who yet disgrace their military appointments will be known and driven from the army, and early in the spring, before the enemy can receive reinforcements from Europe, the most important blows may be struck.

*(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)*

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,  
FALLS OF NIAGARA, 28th September, 1814.

SIR,—Since my letter of the 24th, nothing of importance has occurred. A considerable part of the enemy's militia having returned to their own shores, deserters from their regulars have again begun to come in to our outposts, which are still at Frenchman's Creek. The enemy has no picquet beyond the ferry, and that only by day, and he is represented as in constant apprehension of a surprise. I enclose a copy of my instructions to Major-General De Watteville and to Deputy-Commissary Turquand on the resources, &c., of this portion of the frontier, extending from Frenchman's Creek to the Chippawa. Notwithstanding every effort, however, which it may be possible to make, I cannot divest myself of the greatest degree of alarm on the score of provisions, &c., and I have earnestly to hope that nothing may happen to retard the sailing of the squadron to our relief very early in the ensuing month.

I have visited the forts, and I find that of Niagara in a deplorable state as to defence against any attack by heavy cannon, the foundation of the parapet having given way, and with it the frieze: the picketing, however, remains, except on the southeast bastion towards Fort George, where by an immense breach in the earthwork the picketing has been carried off on the lake face. Almost the whole of the parapet has sunk, and in the centre demi-bastion it has been necessary to remove the gun. Nothing but piles will support any superstructure, and the difficulty attending this mode of repairs will be very great.

Besides our grand wants of provisions, ammunition and guns, we are in want of entrenching tools and carpenter's tools, boards, nails, stoves, &c. &c., before we can either repair our forts or cover our troops for the winter. In the meantime they are very well accommodated in the barns along the frontier, and are fast recovering from the effects of their late suffering, and will be fit for any service in a few days, or rather are at this moment ready to undertake any operations which the movements of the enemy may render necessary.

P. S.—I have to repeat my request that the enemy's militia, taken by me on the 17th and forwarded to the number of near 200 men to Lower Canada on the 26th, may be detained as long as possible from their homes.

**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

(No. 194.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,  
30th September, 1814.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to transmit to Your Lordship the enclosed copy of a despatch I have received from Lieutenant-General Drummond, reporting the result of a sortie made by the enemy, with a large proportion of his force, from Fort Erie, on the 17th inst., in which the very superior numbers of the American army were at length repulsed with great loss by the intrepid valor and determined bravery of the division of troops under the Lieutenant-General's command.

A copy of Major-General DeWatteville's report, and the return of the killed, wounded and missing upon this occasion, are annexed, and altho' in this affair we have suffered a considerable loss, it will be satisfactory to your Lordship to learn that Lieutenant-General Drummond represents the conduct and spirit displayed by the officers and men engaged as deserving of the highest commendation.

The subsequent reports which I have received from Lieutenant-General Drummond, to the 21st inst., state that in consequence of the inclement weather from the torrents of rain which had fallen in the preceding thirteen days, and the sickness prevailing from that circumstance, he felt it his duty no longer to persevere in a vain attempt to maintain the blockade of so vastly superior and increasing a force of the enemy, and that it was his intention to retire towards Chippawa by commencing his movement on the evening of the 21st.

**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of Navy.**

U. S. SHIP "SUPERIOR,"

OFF THE DUCKS, Oct. 1, 1814.

SIR,—On the 28th ult., at daylight, we discovered two of the enemy's ships standing out of Kingston under press of sail. As soon as they discovered us they hove to. The wind being fresh from the northward and eastward, and fair to leave Kingston, I was impressed with the belief that Sir James had got his large ship ready and was coming out with his whole fleet. I immediately made sail to get the wind, but as soon as we tacked for them the enemy's ships filled, made sail on the wind, and soon after tacked from us. The weather being hazy it soon became so thick a fog that we could not observe objects at more than 100 yards distance. I, however, continued to beat to windward, and late in the after-

noon it cleared up for a short time, when we discovered the enemy's two ships outside of the Nine Mile Point. As soon as he discovered that we had neared him considerably and in a situation to cut him off from Kingston if he ventured farther out, he immediately made all sail and beat into his anchorage.

As no other part of the enemy's squadron made its appearance, and these two ships from their manœuvres evidently wished to escape us, it struck me that the enemy had learnt the movements of General Izard up the lake, and apprehending an attack upon General Drummond's army (which probably also was distressed for provisions) had induced him to put on board these two ships troops and provisions and risk them for the relief of his army on the Niagara frontier; the wind and foggy weather also favored such a movement. I determined to frustrate his designs, if possible. Soon after sundown I anchored the fleet between the Galoos and Grenadier Island for the purpose of keeping them together, and put Lieutenant Skinner with an additional number of men on board the *Lady of the Lake*, with orders to anchor between Pigeon and Snake Islands, and if he discovered any movement of the enemy to make signal with rockets or guns his number, etc. It continued a thick fog during the night; the enemy made no movement, and the next morning (29th) the weather cleared up with the wind to the westward; weighed with the fleet and stood in for Kingston until we opened the town; sent the *Lady of the Lake* close in to reconnoitre and ascertain the state of forwardness of the new ship. Lieutenant Skinner found her hauled on in the stream and completely rigged out, but sails not bent: four other ships and a large schooner lying also in the stream and apparently ready to sail. From present appearances I have no doubt but the enemy will be on the lake in the course of a week with his whole force, and I think his first movement will be to attempt to retrieve at Sackett's Harbor what he lost at Plattsburg. I hope, however, that he will meet with the same gallant resistance upon this lake that he experienced on Lake Champlain.

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**Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.**

U. S. SHIP "SUPERIOR,"

OFF THE DUCKS, Oct. 2, 1814.

SIR,—Having a very commanding breeze yesterday, I sent the *Lady of the Lake* into Kingston to reconnoitre. She stood close in with the forts and shipping, keeping just without range of their shot, and had a fair view. The ships lay in the same position as on the 29th, and the large ship still without her sails bent. No

visible preparations to embark troops. I shall watch them in this position as long as possible without endangering the fleet.

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA FALLS,  
2nd October, 1814.

SIR,—Since my last of the 28th September, no material movement has been made on either side. A patrol of a corporal and six men of the 19th Dragoons has, I am sorry to say, been cut off and made prisoners by a party of three hundred men, which the enemy detached for that purpose. The dragoons must have been most culpably careless and confident, or the circumstance could not have happened. A reprisal was yesterday made by a small party of our dragoons under Captain Chambers, Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General, who captured a foragemaster and three of their dragoons near Tyce Horne's, on the Lake Road, and were very near making prisoners of the whole party, (headed by the traitor Marakle,) the light company of the 97th being part of the force detached under Captain Chambers.

In consequence of information I had received of the enemy's having received a very considerable reinforcement of regular troops under the command of General Izard, I have made arrangements for concentrating the troops behind the Chippawa, having the advance post at Black Creek. This arrangement will very much diminish the comfort which the troops experience in their present cantonments, but is a necessary precaution. Through the exertions of the parties of the Incorporated Militia employed on that duty, the greatest part of the grain in possession of the farmers in front of Chippawa has been threshed out, and the produce generally withdrawn for the use of the army. The inhabitants themselves had driven their cattle behind the Black Creek on the first movement of the troops, and I have this day sent parties under Captain Powell of the Quartermaster General's department to cause them to be removed behind Lyons' Creek and the Chippawa tomorrow; therefore it is my intention to withdraw the Royals and 97th across the Chippawa, leaving the light companies of the 6th, 82d and 97th Regiments under Major Stewart, the Glengarry Light Infantry, a squadron of the 19th Dragoons, with one gun, the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, in advance, extending to the Black Creek, at which position some field works have been thrown up by the 97th Regiment under the direction of Major-General De Watteville, to guard the water flank. I have requested

Captain Dobbs to man and move one of the captured schooners out of the Chippawa and place her at the lower end of Grand Island.

Having no certain account of the enemy's intentions, or of the exact accession of force which he may have received, (it is reported to be 2,500 Regulars,) I can only make general precautionary arrangements to meet his attack, which I imagine it will be his object not to delay, as he must be aware of the state of equipment of our new ship, and must believe that the first object of our squadron will be to bring reinforcements (and supplies) to this army, against which the enemy is now evidently turning all his disposable means. That it will continue to do its duty, I feel the firmest confidence, but I fear it may again be called upon to make greater efforts than it is either prudent to risque or politic to exact, if it be possible to avoid the alternative. I now begin to feel very sensibly the want of an efficient *Field Commissariat*: I mean inferior officers of that department, accustomed to use great personal exertions in discovering and collecting the resources of a country. If any such have accompanied the troops from Europe they would be invaluable. In the meantime, I must employ the officers and men of the Incorporated Militia and pay them for their labors.

P. S.—I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's communication of the 23rd in cypher.

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**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

(No. 197.)

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,

4th October, 1814.

(*Secret.*)

MY LORD,—I have the honor to transmit to Your Lordship the enclosed extract from a letter just received from Lieutenant-General Drummond, in order that His Majesty's Government may view the difficulties attending military operations in Canada when carried on without adequate naval support.

I now begin to hope their termination to be fast approaching, as the superiority on Lake Ontario will scarcely be disputed after our large ship appears upon it, an event expected on the 15th inst.

For the purpose of consulting with Sir James Yeo and Lieutenant-General Drummond on the possibility of availing ourselves to the utmost of this long looked for advantage before the campaign is brought to a close by the severity of the weather, I propose proceeding tomorrow to Kingston, and I shall avail myself of the opportunity it will present for the construction of vessels

for Lake Erie at Long Point, and for Lake Huron at Matchedash, and in making the necessary arrangements for opening the next campaign by an attack on Sackett's Harbor.

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,

NIAGARA FALLS, 6th October, 1814.

SIR,—Referring to my last letter, (2d,) I have now the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that an extensive encampment was discovered opposite to Queenston (at some distance in the interior) early this morning. Lights and fires had been observed during the whole of last night, for the first time. I cannot doubt that this is General Izard's force. A number of mounted officers have been seen reconnoitering the banks of the river opposite Queenston at different times to-day. On the right, every report that I have lately received concurs in representing that the preparations the enemy have been for some time making to advance as quite complete. Major-General DeWatteville, therefore, expects to find Brown opposite to him every hour. The Major-General still continues at Black Creek at my request, notwithstanding there is nothing at present in front of the Chippawa but the Glengarry Light Infantry, four light companies, a few men of the Incorporated Militia and two field pieces. If pressed, he is directed to fall back upon the 6th Regiment at Chippawa, and to defend that post. What the enemy's plans are I can only conjecture. The advanced season of the year, the prospect of the arrival of our squadron, the severity (cold) of the weather, the difficulty he must find in supplying his army in that situation—all these reasons must urge General Izard to do quickly whatever he means to attempt. If Fort Niagara be his object, I hope he will find the re-capture of that place not to be easily effected. If he is bold enough to cross the river I trust the (unavoidably) small force I shall leave at Chippawa will prove sufficient to check Major-General Brown long enough to enable me, with the remainder of my small number of disposable troops, to attack and defeat the invader. The crisis to which I have been for some time looking is at hand, and I feel confident it will at least prove to us an honorable if not a brilliant one.

My alarm on the score of provisions increases. The resources of some of the (reported) most abundant townships of this frontier have, on a scrutiny, greatly disappointed our expectations. In short, nothing but the squadron can relieve us.

P. S.—I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's communication of the 26th in cypher.

**Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.**

NORTHERN ARMY HEADQUARTERS,  
NEAR LEWISTON, October 7th, 1814.

(Extract.)

On the 1st of this month I moved from Batavia with the troops, which had accompanied me by water from Sackett's Harbor for that point. My route was through a wilderness, the greater part swamp, twenty-six miles in extent, until I reached the Ridge Road, (thirty-five miles east of this place;) from thence the road is good. We arrived here the day before yesterday in the morning, having encamped the preceding night at a deserted hamlet six miles off. If boats could have been procured we should have surprised a British battalion laying at Queenston. Unluckily every description of craft has been removed from this shore by the enemy.

Major-Generals Brown and P. B. Porter met me the same evening. The opinions of these officers are decidedly that we should concentrate our forces south of Chippawa River, (which stream has not yet been abandoned by General Drummond,) and defer the attack of the forts at the mouth of Niagara River so long as he is in the field. I enclose a copy of the note I addressed after the conversation to Major-General Brown, and his answer. As soon as I hear again from him I will march to Schlosser and cross my brigades to the Canada shore.

Two parties which were sent out last night to reconnoitre Fort Niagara and the intervening ground, have just now returned. The enemy has drawn all his garrison within his walls, and is adding to his defences both there and at Fort George. Early this morning a body of infantry, reported to be eight hundred men, marched from the latter fort towards Queenston. They were accompanied by baggage wagons, and are probably going to reinforce their army above.

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,  
NIAGARA FALLS, 10th October, 1814.

SIR,—Since my communication to Major General Kempt (of the 7th) the greatest part of the enemy's force under General Izard has moved upwards. The object of this movement I have not yet been able to ascertain. From several sources of information, however, to which I have access, I have undoubted intelligence (confirmed by deserters,) that a great effort is about to be made by the enemy to capture or to force this division back from this frontier;

on which it is obvious he proposes to cover his troops during the winter. General Brown has received a reinforcement of regular troops from Detroit, variously stated from five hundred to a thousand; three hundred dragoons have also joined him from Pennsylvania and about two hundred riflemen have been added to his 4th regiment. Two thousand militiamen are daily expected at Fort Erie and have been seen on their way. Horses have been passed over for the artillery at Fort Erie and are constantly trained to the field guns. General Brown's force cannot be estimated at less than six thousand (including three thousand militia), that of General Izard, six regiments of regulars. Their mode of attack does not yet seem decided on. I do not think it improbable that, having the undisturbed possession of Lake Erie and feeling the difficulty of forcing the passage of this, *Chippawa*, he may attempt to gain our rear by the *Grand River* or by *Long Point*. Such a movement, though offering great obstacles to the enemy, (particularly if the inhabitants do their duty by removing the cattle and wagons,) yet, as it would compel me to detach from the small force under my command, could not fail of very much embarrassing me, particularly as I should have to watch and to meet the attack of the troops under General Izard, who, it is understood, is to operate on the right bank of the Niagara.

The following changes have been made in the distribution of the troops since my last: the advance posts are still a little in front of the Black Creek, the bridge over which has been destroyed, and from which I have thought it prudent to withdraw the troops and guns, with the exception of a detachment of 50 men of the Glengarry Light Infantry; the remainder of that regiment is stationed at Street's Grove; the 6th Regiment at Chippawa, with the Incorporated Militia at Wisehorn's on the forks of the Lyons and Chippawa, about a mile above the mouth of the latter, and on which a field work is now constructing, to be armed with a long 12-pounder. The right of the position is further watched by small parties of militia and dragoons extending as high as Brown's bridge, sixteen miles up the Chippawa, and to Cook's Mills, ten miles up the Lyon's Creek. It is my intention also to throw the Indians over this river, and, unless assailed in my centre by the forces under General Izard, I do not apprehend its being possible for the enemy to force it and to turn the position of Chippawa, which I do not think he will venture to attack *in front*; that is, if I am allowed a couple of days to mount the guns proposed to be placed in the battery at that place, and of which a sketch shall accompany my next letter. The 97th, 82d, and Royals are cantoned from Bridgewater to Stamford. They can be concentrated at or near Chippawa in two hours' time.

A force consisting of the 89th and 100th Regiments, flank companies, 104th, one troop, 19th Dragoons, with two six-pounders, under Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Tweeddale, occupies Queenston; the remaining corps, viz: 8th, 41st, and De Watteville's, are in the Forts Missasauga, Niagara, and Fort George.

I have ordered the formation of a small depot of ammunition and provisions at the Twelve Mile Creek, to which place the baggage of the army will be sent in case of attack. The brigs and schooners, under Captain Dobbs, have been employed in removing the sick to York and the Forty Mile Creek. I willingly avail myself of this occasion to express my warm approbation of the cordial and zealous co-operation which I have uniformly experienced from Captain Dobbs of the Royal Navy, whose whole conduct while acting with this division entitles him and the officers and seamen under his command to our grateful acknowledgments.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 30th, enclosing a copy of one to Sir James Yeo in cypher.

**Sir George Prevost to Sir Gordon Drummond.**

HEADQUARTERS.

KINGSTON, October 11th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of September 28th, with its enclosures.

I feel and regret very sensibly the serious inconvenience you have at present to encounter on the score of provisions. You may rely on every possible exertion being made to remove your apprehensions on that account. Immediately on my arrival here I have communicated with the Commodore as to his prospect of affording you relief, and the extent to which he will be able to do it.

The *St. Lawrence* will be ready to take the lake in two or three days, and will then, accompanied by the rest of the squadron, sail for Niagara with the first fair wind.

I enclose a return of the supplies you may expect. The *St. Lawrence* has stowage for a greater quantity than that which is assigned to her, but she already draws 21 feet of water, a depth for which the Commodore already feels some alarm and would deem it imprudent to increase. In taking on board all she could carry she would be lowered two feet more.

I am unwilling to urge anything which might be construed into risk of this important vessel. In addition to the supplies detailed in the enclosed statement, the squadron have on board six weeks' provisions, the remainder of which the Commodore proposes

leaving with you on his quitting Niagara, retaining only such a quantity as may be necessary to bring him into port.

The enemy's squadron have disappeared from the neighborhood, and the *Montreal* is gone on a reconnoissance.

Upon the information she brings, the Commodore will be able to conclude his ultimate arrangements. In the meantime the 90th Regiment is held in readiness to embark or proceed by land, as circumstances may direct.

Should the enemy's squadron show a disposition to remain in Sackett's Harbor it is the determination of Sir James Yeo to order down the three vessels that are now at the head of the lake, and he will employ them in transporting reinforcements and supplies.

**Sir George Prevost to Sir Gordon Drummond.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,

11th October, 1814.

SIR,—I have this moment received your letters of the 2d and 6th inst. The secret intelligence transmitted to you by Major-General Kempt had prepared you for the arrival of Major-General Izard at Queenston, and the precautionary measures you have pursued in consequence appear to be highly judicious.

I have been induced by various circumstances to view the movement of this force (not exceeding eighteen hundred men, (according to the best information obtained respecting it,) more as a relief to the American Militia embodied than as one brought forward for offensive operations at a season of the year so unpromising, and at the moment our squadron on Lake Ontario must have been expected to be in possession of the naval ascendancy.

I deem this reinforcement as sent by the American Government for the purpose of enabling the enemy to retain Fort Erie as a set-off to Fort Niagara, a circumstance to be deprecated and not to be submitted to quietly.

The confidence with which you look to the exertions of the gallant remains of the Right Division is most cheering, and I boldly anticipate a brilliant termination to the present crisis.

Nothing shall be left undone to remove your alarm on the score of provisions. A few days will decide the extent of the aid the navy will afford for that most desirable purpose. In the meantime brigades of batteaux laden with flour will creep along the coast towards York. The possibility of obtaining conveyance for the 90th Regiment in the ships of war retains that corps a day or two longer at Kingston.

**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

(No. 199.)

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, U. C.,  
11th October, 1814.

MY LORD,—I do myself the honor to report to Your Lordship that the day before that of my arrival at Kingston the enemy's squadron discontinued the blockade it had vigorously maintained for the last six weeks. The vigilance of the American cruisers on Lake Ontario was felt even by our batteaux creeping along the shore with provisions for the Right Division. In consequence I found the wants of that portion of the army had grown to an alarming extent, as Your Lordship will observe in the correspondence I have herewith the honor to transmit.

Commodore Sir James Yeo's large ship, the *St. Lawrence*, is not quite ready to take the lake, but it is expected she will be, on the 15th or 16th inst., when the squadron will proceed direct for Niagara with a small proportion of the supplies which are there so much required for the troops.

Reinforcements Sir James Yeo declines taking, from an apprehension of being brought to action by Commodore Chauncey, but as soon as he has ascertained that the American fleet is in Sackett's Harbor and in appearance laid up for the winter, Sir James Yeo will then be disposed to convey from hence an extensive supply of the articles most required on the Niagara Frontier, as well as to remove the sick and disabled from thence to Burlington and York, provided the weather does not suddenly change so as to render the navigation of the lake hazardous.

This serious consideration has induced me to order the 90th Regiment, (about 950 rank and file,) to proceed immediately to York, from whence I entertain hopes it may be conveyed to Niagara by the ships of war.

From the foregoing representation of the state of affairs in Upper Canada, Your Lordship will at once discover the impossibility of any enterprise for the destruction of Sackett's Harbor. The naval ascendancy has been acquired at too late a period of the year to be otherwise useful than in relieving the wants of the troops on the Niagara Frontier and at York, and as the enemy have made Sackett's Harbor a place of considerable resistance against any force capable of being brought against it, the greatest exertions must be made during the winter in the dockyard for the construction of a sufficiency of gun and mortar boats and craft for the conveyance of a large body of troops. I have so arranged it with the Commodore.

Whilst the enemy continues to occupy Fort Erie, it would not

be prudent to attempt a naval establishment on Lake Erie, nor can any expansion of force take place when provisions continue to be so scarce in Upper Canada. The articles required for the equipment and armament of the *St. Lawrence* having had the precedence in their transport to all others, I do not find the quantity of provisions in store at this post sufficient for the supply of the two divisions of the army during the winter, and I have in consequence directed the transport to be exclusively devoted to that service, and the Canadians of Lower Canada to be called upon for the continuance of their zealous exertions for a few more weeks in batteaux, notwithstanding the inclemency of the season.

With a view of obtaining the naval ascendancy on Lake Huron and of maintaining our intercourse uninterrupted with the Western Indians, it has been decided that preparations shall be made immediately for the establishment of a military post and naval dockyard on such part of the shore of Lake Huron in the neighborhood of Matchedash Bay as shall be found most favorable to the construction of vessels.

The only route practicable for the conveyance of the stores and other requisites for the armament, equipment and construction of vessels in that unfrequented country is from York to the shore of Lake Simcoe, and from thence across that sheet of water to the Matchedash River, descending it and passing through a wilderness for about forty miles until you come to Lake Huron.

No transport can be attempted until Lake Simcoe is sufficiently frozen over to admit of burthens upon it, but previous arrangements can be made for the establishment.

I have called Lieutenant-General Drummond's attention to this important object.

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#### District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA FALLS,  
11th October, 1814.

No. 1. The whole of the militia of the surrounding country will be called out for the defence of the Chippawa, on which line Major De Watteville will make such a distribution of the Incorporated and Sedentary Militia, troop of the 19th Dragoons, and the Indian warriors, as he may consider advisable for effectually watching and guarding the banks of the Chippawa and Lyons' Creek.

2. The whole of the heavy baggage composing Major-General De Watteville's command is immediately to be sent to Fort George, where it will be placed in charge of a subaltern officer ordered on that duty from the corps which can best spare one. But it is the

Lieutenant-General's most positive command, and one for which he is determined to hold commanding officers of corps strictly responsible, that no effective soldier, (whether servant or batman), is sent with the baggage to the rear. The guard must wholly consist of convalescents or weakly men. As the efficiency of the army so materially depends upon the strict observance of this order, the Lieutenant-General is determined not to allow its violation. He is induced to be the more particular on this head from having observed the disgraceful number of serviceable men who were sent to the rear under various pretences during the last movement which the army made from Fort Erie. The wagons attached to the regiments are to be employed in removing the baggage, and every empty returning wagon belonging to the different departments is to be made use of for this purpose.

3. In the event of an action, drummers or band will alone be permitted to attend the wounded to the rear. Officers commanding corps will be responsible for the rigid observance of this order.

4. Three guns fired from the heights of Lundy's Lane, at the interval of one minute between each, will be the signal for the corps to assemble on their respective alarm posts, and to close up, without waiting for further orders, to the head of the column at Bridgewater. A six-pounder will be immediately detached from Chippawa to Lundy's Lane for the purpose of giving this signal, which is to be repeated at Queenston. With a view to keep the men of the different regiments as much collected as possible the Lieutenant-General recommends frequent roll calls during the day.

5. The Deputy Quartermaster General will make arrangements for concentrating the troops in their cantonments, with their right resting on Bridgewater and their left at Lundy's Lane. Commissariat stores will be removed to Stamford. The sick will be removed from the hospital at Clarke's house.

J. HARVEY,

Lieut.-Col., D. A. G.

MEMO.—Captain Smith, 6th Foot, and Lieutenant Lowrey, 8th Regiment, have leave to proceed to York for the recovery of their wounds,

**Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey to Lieutenant-Colonel The Marquess of Tweeddale.**

HEADQUARTERS, NIAGARA FALLS,  
11th October, 1814.

MY LORD,—With reference to the instructions with which you have already been furnished, and the District General Order of this day, I am directed to desire that on the firing of an alarm signal you will march with the force under your command to Lundy's Lane, reporting your movement by a dragoon to Major-General Stovin, and sending forward a mounted officer to the headquarters of the Lieutenant-General commanding for further instructions, and leaving the flank companies of the 104th, or a detachment of fifty men with one gun, to occupy the post of Queenston until the arrival of the troops and gun which Major-General Stovin has been directed to detach to Queenston on receiving information of your movement.

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**Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey to Major-General Stovin.**

HEADQUARTERS, FALLS OF NIAGARA,  
11th October, 1814.

SIR,—With reference to the instructions with which you have been verbally furnished, I am directed by Lieutenant-General Drummond to desire that you will detach the troops named in the margin, or such portion of them as you may deem prudent, to Queenston as soon as possible after the firing of the alarm signal from that post and Lundy's Lane.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Tweeddale has orders to march at the same time to Lundy's Lane, leaving the flank companies of the 104th, or a detachment of 50 men, to occupy Queenston until the arrival of the troops detached from Fort George. The Lieutenant-General leaves it to you to nominate an officer to command the detachment above ordered, but directs me to observe that Lieutenant-Colonel Warburton, 41st Regiment, appears to him to be an officer well calculated for it, as well as being a disposable field officer. The Lieutenant-General also leaves it to your discretion to proceed yourself to assume command of the troops detached or to remain at the forts. In deciding this point you will, of course, be influenced and determined by the indications or movements of the enemy in your neighborhood. The same discretionary permission is given to you in respect to joining the more advanced position of your command, under the Marquess of Tweeddale. If you leave the forts, the next senior officer, Colonel Tucker, as well as the

officers respectively commanding at the different forts, must receive the most positive orders for the utmost vigilance and precaution being used to prevent surpris, and for their defence to the utmost extremity in case of being attacked.

The troops detached from the forts are not to advance beyond Queenston, nor those from Queenston beyond Lundy's Lane, without orders to that effect, but their arrival at those places is to be reported to headquarters by a mounted officer, who will receive the Lieutenant-General's orders for their guidance.

(Troops Named in Margin.)

	<i>Completed to Rank and File.</i>
Light Company 8th . . . . .	50
Flank Companies 41st . . . . .	100
Two Battalion Companies 41st . . . . .	100
do De Watteville's . . . . .	200
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 450

One six-pounder.

### Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,  
NIAGARA FALLS, 11th October, 1814.

SIR,—Referring to my letter of the 10th, I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that I have received a report of General Izard's division, (which had for the last two days been encamped at Black Rock,) having crossed to the Canada shore. I therefore hourly expect to hear of the approach of the enemy's united force towards the Chippawa. Of the defences, which are constructing at the mouth of that creek, as well as of the whole of the position which the troops will have to defend, the accompanying sketch may give Your Excellency some idea. I regret to state, however, that those defences are by no means yet complete, tho' they would to-morrow evening, (if the enemy gives us until that time,) be in a state capable of making a very tolerable resistance. By that time the platform in the *tete de pont* would be laid and the *abbatis* round that work and the picketting round the redoubt at Weishuhn's completed, and four iron twelve-pounders mounted.

By the enclosed copy of a District General Order, Your Excellency will be informed of the arrangement for collecting the troops. One of the principal advantages of their position behind the Chippawa is that it enables me to suffer them to remain undisturbed in their cantonments until the very moment when they may

be required to act. As soon as the enemy moves it is my intention to bring up the troops from Queenston under the Marquess of Tweeddale, and probably the detachment from the garrison of the forts, which Major-General Stovin has been ordered to hold in readiness, in the instructions of which a copy is enclosed. With the force amounting to about *ach ash f m t h w y p n o a o b g x c y z*, I should be strongly induced to risque an attack on double their numbers should the enemy, by dividing his force, afford me a favorable opportunity. The aggregate force of the enemy I cannot estimate lower than eight thousand—deserters state it as high as ten thousand. They say that a vast number of boats are to be employed in the expedition, and that twelve pieces of artillery are already embarked. The impressions which these vast preparations and force of the enemy, together with our great numerical inferiority and the non-arrival of reinforcements to this division, have produced on the minds of the inhabitants of this frontier has been such as to induce them very generally to abandon their homes and property. I have been endeavoring to induce the militia to come forward, but under actual circumstances I can scarcely expect my call to be complied with to any great extent. Nor have the Indians, who had returned to the Head of the Lake on the troops going into cantonments, yet come forward again.

I have said enough to show Your Excellency the difficulties of my situation, which the squadron, unless it bring me a strong reinforcement of troops, will by no means relieve. I have, however, ceased to reckon upon any relief depending on the squadron. The troops which may arrive in it may indeed serve to repair my losses, but they cannot now possibly arrive in time to take any share in the contest which I fear this gallant little division will shortly have to maintain against *i g p z w p* its numbers. While I feel confident that its gallantry and efforts will be such as to call forth the applause of its King and country and every impartial military man, (whatever may be the result,) I cannot but deeply lament that any circumstances should have placed this portion of the British army in a situation such as I have described.

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**Lord Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to Sir George Prevost.**  
(No. 63.)

DOWNING STREET, 5th October, 1814.

SIR,—I have received your despatches, Nos. 189 and 190, the former enclosing the account given by Lieutenant-General Drummond of his late unsuccessful attack upon Fort Erie.

The loss, both of officers and men, has been very severe. It is rendered more so by the distinguished character which some of the officers enjoyed.

His Majesty's service in Canada has been essentially promoted and the glory of his arms upheld by the energy and spirit of enterprise which Lieutenant-General Drummond has constantly displayed, but enterprise must always be subject to disappointment, against which a judicious officer may often, but cannot always, provide. The failure of Lieutenant-General Drummond in this instance is, however, to be attributed to an accident which might have happened in the most wary operation and ought not to expose him to the slightest reproach. You will therefore, I am sure, have great pleasure in communicating to him the Prince Regent's approbation of his conduct.

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### The Duke of York to Sir George Prevost.

HORSE GUARDS, 15th October, 1814.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 4th ulto., in which you detail the circumstances of the attack made by the troops under the command of Lieutenant-General Drummond upon the enemy's position at Fort Erie.

I must lament that the bravery and discipline evinced by the troops upon this service, and the judicious measures adopted by the Lieutenant-General for the guidance of them, should have been rendered abortive by an accident so unforeseen and unfortunate as the explosion of the enemy's reserve ammunition, and which appears to have alone caused the failure of an enterprise that deserved success.

I lament the loss sustained by the troops upon this unfortunate occasion, particularly the lives of so many valuable officers.

Success in war is seldom attainable where the spirit of enterprise is wanting, and I am of opinion that this quality should ever be cherished where it is observed to be tempered in an officer by prudence and guided by able arrangements. Viewing the measures adopted by Lieutenant-General Drummond in this light, I have great satisfaction in acquainting you that his conduct in the enterprise against Fort Erie has met the full approbation of the Prince Regent.

It is with much concern I observe the little hope you entertain of being enabled to apply the force now placed under your orders to any operation of magnitude during the present season. I give you full credit for the firmness with which you would resist the

effect upon your judgment of "vain and ignorant clamour," but considering the extent and composition of the army under your command, I am apprehensive that the hopes and expectations of the government and the country would be much disappointed in the non-attainment of signal success against the enemy opposed to you, and this disappointment would be aggravated if the occasional ascendancy on the lakes, so likely to be acquired by the more immediate means and local resources of the enemy, should paralyze the exertions of an army so infinitely his superior. I cannot, however, fail to anticipate the utmost effort of your well-known zeal towards the accomplishment of whatever local circumstances may render practicable.

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**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, FALLS OF NIAGARA,  
15th October, 1814, Midnight.

SIR,—On the evening of the 13th the enemy advanced to Black Creek, and, having effected the passage of that creek during the night, continued his advance as far as Street's Grove on the following morning, the Glengarry Light Infantry retiring before him in the most perfect order and with the utmost regularity. A line of picquets was taken up a short distance in front of the *tete de pont* and occupied until this morning, when they were obliged to retire into the works before the whole of the enemy's army, which advanced to make a reconnoissance, supported by the fire of a considerable number of heavy guns. The firing continued on his part the whole day, during which he continued to display his columns, but did not venture to make an attack. I think it probable that he might have been deterred from this by the occasional fire of the guns, which are already mounted on this position and on the *tete de pont*. At sunset he ceased his annoyance, and retired to his camp (at Street's Grove.) The casualties of the troops under my command have been very few. Returns have not yet been collected. Several of the guns were struck, in consequence of the unfinished state of the batteries. The troops are full of ardor, and I have only most deeply to lament that I have not a sufficient number of them to admit of my freely indulging that feeling by leading them to the attack of the enemy. I am persuaded that if I possessed the means of availing myself the present crisis, the movement which has been made by the enemy on this frontier affords a most favorable opportunity, and here I cannot refrain from observing that if I had the 90th and one other strong regiment, (which can so well be spared,) I am fully of the opinion that

I would now have it in my power to strike a blow which would not only give immediate tranquillity to the province, but go far towards finishing the war in Upper Canada. As it is, I cannot feel either sanguine or comfortable. Your Excellency's communication of the 11th (just received) effectually banishes all such feelings. Should the 90th Regiment (or any strong regiment) and the requisite supply of provisions and stores not come up in the squadron, and should any disaster happen to this division, (in consequence,) and, above all, should Commodore Chauncey, (as is probable,) decline an action, His Majesty's naval commander will, in my opinion, have much to answer for.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE LEFT DIVISION,  
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, CAMP FORT ERIE,  
Oct. 13, 1814.

(*Division Orders.*)

Pursuant to the General Order of last evening, the left division will be immediately prepared to take up the line of march. The 1st and 2nd Brigades will form the right or heavy, following the road along the margin of the river. The 1st and 4th Rifle Regiments, together with Major-General Porter's command, will constitute the left or light column. This body will proceed through the fields from 350 to 500 yards distant from that of the right and parallel to it. Flankers will be thrown out from the left flank of alternate sections, and will dress by them respectively.

Baggage, provisions, &c., will follow in the rear. Major Hogan, Deputy Quartermaster-General, is charged with the good order of its progress. He will see that it proceeds in order, corresponding with several battalions of the different brigades and corps, and fully to effect this, regimental quartermasters are directed to be particularly attentive.

The two brigades will alternately furnish a rear guard, consisting of 1 captain, 1 sub, and 60 privates. The greatest attention to discipline, *correct marching*, and military appearance in general will be observed by *every* officer and exacted from every soldier, and this especially is looked for in the order of encampment as well as on the line of march. Soldiers must not be permitted to leave the ranks. The adjutant and inspector-generals will keep with the columns and will look to all their several important duties.

By command of M. G. Brown,

R. JONES,

Asst. Adj.-Gen. Left Division.

(*From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.*)

**Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS NORTHERN ARMY,  
CAMP NEAR STREET'S CREEK, October 16th, 1814.

SIR,—On the 8th instant I marched from Lewiston to Schlosser, intending to embark at or near that landing with my troops and cross the strait to a point south of Chippawa, where I was to be met by Major-General Brown's division. On arriving at Cayuga Creek, where the boats had been concealed, I found that they would not contain above one-fourth of my force, and to cross in the face of the enemy's batteries and entrenchments at Chippawa by small detachments would have been madness. I therefore encamped for the night, and the next morning, having lightened my wagons by putting part of their load in the boats, we proceeded towards Black Rock. Some delay occurred at Tonewanto Creek, a bold and deep stream, the bridge over which was destroyed some months ago. On the 10th and 11th my army crossed the strait and encamped about two miles north of Fort Erie.

I found at that post, (besides the remains of Brown's division and the New York Volunteers under General Porter,) the 17th Regiment of Infantry, which had arrived a few days before from the westward. The latter I attached to the first brigade of my division. Having ordered the works to be completed, and leaving a garrison competent to their protection from insult under present circumstances, which I entrusted to Major Hindman of the artillery as commandant, I marched on the morning of the 13th with this army, consisting of the first division, three thousand five hundred strong, under my immediate command, and the second division, under Major-General Brown, two thousand regulars and eight hundred militia volunteers.

At Black Creek we halted that night. A small party of the enemy's light troops and dragoons were on the opposite side of the creek observing us; they had destroyed the bridges and houses, and driven away the inhabitants. The forage they had endeavored to burn, but were in too much haste to do so effectually. I cause all that we have occasion to take to be paid for, and spare no pains to protect the wretched people from being plundered. Some excesses, I regret to state, have been committed by the irregulars and riflemen, but they are remedied as much as possible, and if repeated (after the orders I have given on the subject) shall not go unpunished.

The construction of bridges over the numerous little streams we met delayed our progress on the 14th. We encamped that night at this place, little more than two miles from the enemy's entrench-

ments on the Chippawa. Yesterday morning, having completed a bridge over Street's Creek for the passage of the field-pieces, I occupied with my division, forming the first line of the army, the ground in front of the enemy's works; my right on the strait, my left in the woods skirting the Chippawa River, and a body of riflemen in advance covering the left flank on Lyon's Creek, which falls into the Chippawa about a mile and-a-half above its mouth.

Both streams are deep and without a ford for many miles. At their junction the enemy has erected a strong redoubt.

For the purpose of drawing the fire from his batteries, in order to choose the situation of our batteries, I ordered a field-piece forward into the road, from which some shot were discharged with effect at the prominent buildings within their fortifications, but they did not think proper to answer us. Some confusion was observed on their side: loaded wagons were going and soldiers retreating by the Lake Road. Some of my officers were induced to believe they were evacuating the post, and Major-General Brown was of this opinion. To ascertain the fact, which seemed to me incredible in the apparent state of their works, I ordered the whole of my little train, (consisting of Towson's and Austin's companies, the former three six-pounders and one 5½ inch. howitzer, the latter two eighteen-pounders.) to advance and fire on their batteries. Nothing could be more gallant than the proceedings of this little band. They advanced through the open ground in full view of the enemy's batteries of twenty-four and twelve-pounders, formed the line without any cover whatever, and commenced a cool and correct cannonade, which was immediately answered by their adversaries. The vast superiority of our artillery was discernible to the most inexperienced eye. Every shot told. One of their batteries was silenced. The intended effect was produced, and it was plain that so far from abandoning their forts the British were in strength, and superior in weight of metal and number of guns. The firing continued until dusk, when I directed our pieces to be withdrawn for the night.

Two deserters, who came over this morning, state that considerable execution was done in the battery they were posted in, on the hither side of the creek. On our side we lost but four men killed—none wounded, except Major S. Lush, Army Judge Advocate, who volunteered his services as one of my staff, and who unfortunately was in a group with a number of other young officers, which attracted the notice of the enemy. His horse was shot under him by a twenty-four pound ball, and himself severely hurt. I am happy to add that the surgeons pronounce the wound not mortal.

This morning I have directed Lyon's Creek, on the right of the army's position, to be closely reconnoitred.

I have just learned by express from Sackett's Harbor that Commodore Chauncey, with the whole of his fleet, has retired into port, and is throwing up batteries for its protection. This defeats all the objects of the operations by land in this quarter. I may turn Chippawa, and should General Drummond not retire, may succeed in giving him a great deal of trouble, but if he falls back on Fort George or Burlington Heights every step I take in pursuit exposes me to be cut off by the large reinforcements it is in the power of the enemy to throw in twenty-four hours upon my flank or rear.

All the artillery and all the ordnance stores are inadequate to the siege of one of the enemy's fortresses. Three-fourths of the arms of the troops from the westward are unfit for service. The severe season is approaching. A fact which I was not aware of before I witnessed it from Lewiston Heights is that the communication by water from York to the mouth of the Niagara was uninterrupted, notwithstanding our supremacy at that time on Lake Ontario. I saw a large square rigged vessel arriving and another, a brig, lying close to the Canada shore. Not a vessel of ours was in sight.

I confess, sir, I am greatly embarrassed. At the head of the most efficient army the United States have possessed during this war, much must be expected from me, and yet I can discern no object which can be achieved at this point worthy of the risk which will attend its attempt. The relief of Major General Brown's force is completely effected. I have presented the army under my command in the open field and under the enemy's intrenchment for battle, which he prudently declines. The opinions of all the principal officers whom I have spoken with on the subject are against attempts which can result in no national advantage, and which, even if successful, would be attended by the unavoidable loss of many men now more valuable than ever. Under these circumstances, should no opening present in a few days to obtain an immediate advantage over the enemy, I shall feel it my duty to commence immediate preparations for the distribution of the troops in winter quarters at such places as will enable them to assemble with celerity round any menaced point.

*(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)*

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,  
FALLS OF NIAGARA, 18th October, 1814.

SIR,—During the whole of the 16th the enemy continued to display columns of infantry in front of our position in front of the Chippawa without, however, venturing within range of our guns or offering us any annoyance with his. About one o'clock on the 17th his troops disappeared. Our picquets were immediately thrown out and a reconnoissance of cavalry and infantry pushed in different directions, and it was found that the enemy had retired from his camp at Street's Grove and was moving in the direction of Black Creek, at which place he halted and encamped, our picquets being pushed close to his during the night. The cause of this sudden retrograde movement of the enemy I have not yet ascertained. Spies and deserters say it was owing to finding our position at the mouth of the Chippawa so much stronger than they expected, added to the intelligence they had received of the approach of our fleet, which did make its appearance this morning. The wind not having been favorable, it might have been discovered off the Genesee some days ago and reported to General Brown, and thereby account for the *precipitation* with which it has been marked, such as provisions left on the ground, some camp equipage burnt, (for which I consider they had not carriage,) and two boats, which had been sent over to Schlosser for fresh provisions the same morning, having returned to Street's Grove without knowing that the American army had left it. One of these boats was taken by our picquet, and contained fresh meat, bread, and spirits, for at least a brigade.

That the enemy has not quitted his position in our immediate front with any intention of retracing his steps to Fort Erie or his own shores without some further attempt to penetrate further into the province, is sufficiently apparent from the events of this day, (18th.) Early this forenoon information was brought me that a large body of the enemy was moving up Black Creek in the direction of Cook's Mills on Lyon's Creek. The Glengarry Light Infantry and seven companies of the 82nd Regiment were immediately moved in that direction, and in consequence of a report which I have just received of the enemy having passed Lyon's Creek at Cook's Mills in force, the troops above mentioned have been reinforced by the remaining three companies of the 82nd Regiment, the 100th Regiment and a gun. With this force I have directed Colonel Myers to feel the enemy closely, and I shall cause him to be attacked if not too strong. Orders have been sent for the destruction of *Brown's Bridge*, (on the Chippawa,) and as the

enemy cannot, (I think,) possibly bring his guns, I hope and believe, he will be found to have committed himself by this movement, unless he retires in the course of the night. If the report which I have received of his moving only one brigade (not exceeding 2,000 men) to Cook's Mills be confirmed during the night, I shall add the 6th Regiment to the troops above enumerated and attack this brigade at daylight, leaving Major-General De Watteville to maintain the position against the remainder of the enemy's force, (of about 6,000,) which he will have no difficulty, in my opinion, in doing. In all events, I shall endeavor to give Your Excellency a further report to-morrow.

A report from Fort George of the fleet (five sail) being in sight reached me at noon to-day; as I have received no further report I conclude they have not yet communicated with the forts. Colonel Harvey has written by my directions to Sir James Yeo, proposing to him to spare me some of his marines in addition to the troops whom he may have brought up. Though I have no idea of his acquiescence in such a proposal, I have nevertheless thought it right to make it. I have already told Your Excellency that the squadron unless it brings me a strong reinforcement of troops will by no means relieve the difficulties of my situation.

I therefore enclose a copy of my arrangement for meeting the attack of the enemy in the position of the Chippawa.

P. S.—I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's cypher communication of the 13th.

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**Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey to Lieutenant-Colonel Myers.**

18TH OCTOBER, 1814, 9 p. m.

MY DEAR MYERS,—On receipt of your message by Lieutenant-Colonel Hagerman, the demi-brigade (100th and 89th Regiments and 104th flank companies) were ordered across to Weishuhn's with a six-pounder. Major Sparrow conducts them. Of these troops the 89th and 104th are directed to remain in the post, and the 100th and three companies of the 82d and the gun to move on to your reinforcement and support. With the force you will then have at your disposal the General thinks you will be able to feel them closely, so as accurately to ascertain their strength and the direction of their movement; both points of infinite importance for us to have accurate information upon in order to regulate the force it may be necessary to detach to meet the enemy on the left bank of the Chippawa, should he dare to attempt to penetrate in the direction of "Burlington by the Beaver Dams." I need not

remind you that any error we may commit in our calculations on this point may be one of the very first consequence to the safety of this division.

General Drummond requests that you will act with caution, by not attacking a very superior force with a vastly inferior one, but if you discover that the enemy is endeavoring to establish himself at Cook's Mills and awaiting the arrival of reinforcements, give us information by the quickest possible route, in order that a sufficient force may be detached to attack with the certainty of destroying that of the enemy.

The gun, as the enemy cannot possibly have any, will be a *host*, but it is not to move from Weishuhn's without your special orders. Colonel Robertson had been detached to Brown's Bridge with his militia, sending forward an officer to see the bridge destroyed. We shall, of course, be anxious for constant reports. General Stovin is ordered up with the 90th detachment, and the marines if Sir James will spare them.

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**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

(No. 200.)

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, U. C.,  
18th October, 1814.

MY LORD,—The American Government having availed itself of the naval ascendancy it possessed on Lake Ontario and Lake Erie to bring from Sackett's Harbor and Detroit on board its vessels considerable reinforcements and extensive supplies to Major-General Brown's army, occupying Buffalo and Fort Erie, Lieutenant-General Drummond's situation, with scanty resources for the support of a force reduced by sickness and contests, was daily becoming more critical.

The state of the roads from hence to York being represented as impracticable for the movement of any considerable number of men or any adequate quantity of provisions, I had nothing to hope for the Lieutenant-General's relief but from an exertion of Sir James Yeo.

On the 12th inst. a reconnoissance, pushed into the neighborhood of Sackett's Harbor, returned with intelligence that Commodore Chauncey's ships were anchored under the batteries, a disposition on his part to await there the result of the superiority we had just obtained, and in the event of an attack to co-operate in the defence of the place.

In consequence, Sir James Yeo, with difficulty, consented to

receive on board his vessels a wing of the 90th Regiment, in addition to a small proportion of ordnance stores and provisions, and sailed from hence for Niagara on the 14th inst., leaving with me the assurance that he would return as soon as possible with as many of the sick and disabled of the right division as were in a situation to be removed, and convey another and much more ample supply of provisions, stores, and men, previous to the closing of navigation.

I have contemplated the measures of the administration at Washington as originating in a precaution against the effects to be produced by the naval ascendancy we were expected to acquire on Lake Ontario at an earlier period of the year than has been the case. That the American General, prompted by confidence in their numerical superiority and aware of my inability to reinforce the right division until our squadron should take the lake, may be induced to attack Lieutenant-General Drummond at this moment, is in the opinion of that officer probable, and he has made his dispositions accordingly, with confidence that his troops will in the result deserve the applause of their king and country.

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**Lieut.-Colonel Christopher Myers. Deputy Quartermaster-General, to Lieut.-General Sir Gordon Drummond.**

MISENER'S HOUSE, ON LYON'S CREEK,  
October 19, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to report to you that I proceeded this morning to reconnoitre the position of the enemy at Cook's Mills, distant from hence three miles, where he was understood to be in force.

I directed Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, with the Glengarry Regiment of light infantry, to move in front and on the flanks: Lieutenant-Colonel the Marquess of Tweeddale with the 100th, flank companies of the 104th, and those of the 82nd, with a six-pounder and the rockets, in support, and Major Proctor with the remainder of the 82nd Regiment to move in reserve, the whole about seven hundred and fifty men.

I found the enemy's advance with a strong support posted on the right bank of a ravine, which runs to Lyon's Creek, a small distance from the Mills. A part of the Glengarry Regiment turned round a small wood which covered the front of the enemy and crossed the head of the ravine, whilst the remainder passed through the wood. By this movement the enemy's light troops were driven back in admirable style, whilst a part of his force crossed Lyon's

Creek for the purpose of annoying our left. Having chiefly the reconnoissance in view, and finding that object not attainable by a forward movement from the thickness of the woods, I retired the Glengarry Regiment and fell back a small distance, in the hope of drawing the the enemy forth to the open ground, and, if circumstances would justify it, to bring him to a more general action. This had no farther the desired effect than that he advanced to the skirts of the wood, and showed two columns on our left and one on our right, opening a heavy fire of small arms and which from the distance we sparingly returned, but from the fire of the six-pounder and the rockets the enemy's column on our left suffered severely. From my own observation and the reports I have received, I cannot estimate the force of the enemy at less than from 1,500 to 2,000 men. He had no cannon. Finding it impossible to draw him fairly from the woods, I retired the troops to their cantonments around this place, keeping my advance close to that of the enemy.

The conduct of the Glengarry Light Infantry during this campaign has been so conspicuous that Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby and the officers and men of that corps can receive little further from any report of mine, but on this occasion I cannot refrain from adding my humble tribute of praise to their well-earned fame.

To Lieutenant-Colonel the Marquess of Tweeddale and the corps under his immediate orders, and to Major Proctor and the 82nd Regiment, my best acknowledgments are due. The steadiness and conduct of those troops merit my highest commendation.

The service of the six-pounder and rockets was most judiciously directed by Lieutenant Carter of the Royal Artillery.

I beg also to state the able assistance I received from Major Sparrow, Assistant-Adjutant-General, and from Captain Powell Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, who were attached in the first instance to Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, and I am happy of this opportunity to acknowledge the zealous and meritorious conduct of this officer in his department since the opening of the campaign. To Major Glegg, who was sent forward for a report, I am much indebted during the time he remained with me.

I transmit a return of casualties, which I regret should be so great, and I am much concerned to find that that valuable officer, Captain McMillan of the Glengarry Regiment, is amongst the wounded. The loss of the enemy could not be ascertained, but I have every reason to believe it severe, his columns being under the fire of the six-pounder and the rockets.

**Morning District-General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS,  
 NIAGARA FALLS, 20th October, 1814.

Lieutenant-General Drummond having received the report of Colonel Myers, Deputy-Quartermaster-General, who directed the reconnoissance made on the enemy's force at Cook's Mills yesterday morning, hastens to express to the troops engaged on that occasion his thanks for their very gallant conduct. Lieutenant-General Drummond is particularly obliged to Colonel Myers for the judgment and ability with which he executed his instructions and effected every object of the movement. The Colonel speaks in terms of admiration of the fine style in which that excellent corps, the Glengarry Light Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Battersby, drove back the enemy's light troops, and of the steadiness and firmness displayed by the 82nd Regiment under Major Proctor, and the 100th Regiment and 104th flank companies under Lieutenant-Colonel the Marquess of Tweeddale, in presence of and under the fire of very superior columns of the enemy.

The service of the six-pounder and rockets were very judiciously directed by Lieutenant Carter of the Royal Artillery.

Not having been able to induce the enemy to leave the woods in which he was posted and venture out into the open ground, the troops were retired to their cantonments in the most perfect order, the advance remaining close to the enemy.

The loss of the enemy in this affair must have been very severe, his columns having at several periods been exposed to the fire of the gun and rockets. Ours has been one man killed and thirty-five wounded, all slightly. Lieutenant-General Drummond regrets that that excellent officer, Captain McMillan of the Glengarry Light Infantry, has received a wound. He is the only officer wounded.

Colonel Myers reports the able assistance which he received from Major Sparrow, Assistant-Adjutant-General, and from Captain Powell, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, and takes this opportunity of acknowledging the zealous and meritorious conduct of the latter officer in his department since the commencement of the campaign. He also expresses himself much indebted to Major Glegg, Assistant-Adjutant-General, who was sent forward by the Lieutenant-General for a report, and joined him just before the action.

J. HARVEY,  
 Lt.-Col. D. A. G.

**Sir James Yeo to Sir Gordon Drummond.**

HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *St. Lawrence*,  
OFF NIAGARA, 19th October, 1814.

(Extract.)

I am concerned General Drummond should make a request I cannot comply with without exposing the honor of the flag, the interest of the country, and my own reputation, to most eminent danger. The enemy's fleet may very possibly engage the squadron under my command, and the marines compose the most efficient part of their crews. Under these circumstances it is impossible I can comply with his request.

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS,  
NIAGARA FALLS, 20th October, 1814.

SIR,—Early yesterday morning the 6th Regiment was passed over to Weishuhn's, to which point I myself proceeded, for the purpose of being ready to move to the attack of the enemy's force at Cook's Mills should the result of the reconnoissance, which I directed Colonel Myers, Deputy-Quartermaster-General, to make, appear to me to render such a movement advisable. The instructions with which Colonel Myers was furnished are contained in the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to him by the Deputy-Adjutant-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, by my direction, and which had been executed by Colonel Myers and the detachment placed under his command entirely to my satisfaction. The particulars of the affair Your Excellency will find detailed in Colonel Myers' report, and I have only to add that the judgment and ability displayed by Colonel Myers in the execution of my instructions entitle him to my best acknowledgments. His report of the gallantry and good conduct of the troops, though highly gratifying, is nothing more than might be expected. I have never known them to act otherwise. I enclose a copy of the order which I have issued on the occasion.

It appears that the force which had penetrated through almost impassable roads to Cook's Mills consisted of one brigade, viz: the 5th, 14th, 15th, and 16th Regiments of General Izard's army, under Brigadier-General Bissell. A reinforcement of two regiments joined them this morning from General Brown's army. Feeling the difficulties of his situation, however, and the impossibility of moving even the common waggons of the country, much less guns, through such roads, and finding a powerful force in his front not only ready to meet him but anxious to entice him into the open

ground, the Commanding General of the American army has wisely thought proper to withdraw this force, which accordingly retreated from Cook's Mills at two o'clock this afternoon, without even destroying the mills, though he certainly might have done so on public grounds. I must, however, do him the justice to acknowledge that as far as I have observed he has been studiously cautious in abstaining from his burning and plundering system, probably admonished by the retaliation inflicted at Washington and on the coast.

It is impossible for me to say what this army may next attempt, but his failure in his endeavour to turn my right, and the great improvement I have been able to make by increasing exertions in the defences at the *Tete de pont* and Weishuhn's, leave me far less anxious on the subject of being able successfully to repel all the enemy's attempts on this frontier than I was on his first approach, at which period I had little or nothing to aid the gallantry of the troops. The *Tete de pont* is now a very complete and defensible work. The redoubt at Weishuhn's is also in a respectable state, and the guns are so disposed and covered along the left bank of the Chippawa between these two posts as to render the whole position very strong, and consequently to leave the greatest part of my force disposable to oppose the enemy, should he succeed in turning my right.

In consequence of a succession of adverse and violent winds, no communication has yet been had with the squadron, although they have been off the Niagara these three days. General Stovin reports that they were expected to get in this evening.

The disappointment I experienced at finding that half the 90th Regiment had been left to struggle through the dreadful roads betwixt Kingston and York, at such a season and at such a crisis, was greater than I can express.

I have now distinctly and earnestly to recommend to Your Excellency to send up to this frontier two effective regiments in addition to the 90th, one of them to go to Burlington, where their active services will be required, and the other to Fort George to relieve and enable me to send down to the Lower Province the following regiments, viz: the Royals, King's, 41st, 89th, 100th, 103rd and De Watteville's, (seven,) and which cannot move from hence until the arrival of those destined to replace them. I shall communicate with Sir James Yeo on this subject, and urge him to apply his ships to the only service which they can render us during the remainder of this season.

P. S.—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 15th.

**After Evening District-General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS,  
 NIAGARA FALLS, 22nd October, 1814.

The troops in the field will be brigaded as follows during the short service on which the Lieutenant-General proposes to employ them:

*1st Brigade, Major-General Stovin:*

1st Battalion Royal Scots.  
 90th Regiment.  
 97th do  
 Flank companies 41st and De Watteville's.  
 2—24-prs. brass field-pieces.  
 1—6 do do

*2nd Brigade, Major-General De Watteville:*

6th Regiment.  
 82nd do  
 89th and 100th.  
 Glengarry Light Infantry, Incorporated and Sedentary Militia.  
 2—6-prs.  
 1—5½ inch howitzer.

The division will move to its left. The 2nd Brigade will be formed at Street's, and the 1st at Chippawa, as soon as possible after daylight to-morrow morning. The Major-Generals reporting as soon as their brigades are collected.

Three batteaux manned by the Sedentary Militia will accompany each brigade.

The detachment of the rocket company under Lieutenant Stevens will move with the 2nd Brigade.

The cavalry with the advance.

An officer of the Engineer Department with a proportion of artificers and tools will accompany the division.

J. HARVEY,  
 Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

HEADQUARTERS,  
 NIAGARA FALLS, 23d October, 1814.

SIR,—The two regiments stated in my last to have been detached to augment the enemy's force at Cook's Mills on the morning of the 20th, it appears, were moved solely for the purpose of covering its retreat. On the morning of the 21st, the enemy again showed some troops in front of our position at Chippawa.

Relieved, however, from all apprehension for the security of my right, I had no fears as to anything he could effect in front; in fact after a short display, (the object of which I suspected at the time and which will be hereafter explained,) his columns were withdrawn, and nothing but his picquets remained in sight. Anxious to have an interview with Commodore Sir James Yeo, I took the opportunity of riding down to Niagara and went on board the squadron. On my return here yesterday I found the enemy's picquets had disappeared. Immediate arrangements were made for moving the whole division, (augmented by four companies of the 90th Regiment,) to harass or attack the enemy in his retreat, should the reconnoissance which I prepared to make, or the information which I expected to receive, appear to justify such a movement. The troops were ordered to cook, and were brigaded as stated in the enclosed order.

I moved on at daylight this morning with the cavalry and light troops, and having ascertained that the enemy had not a man on this side the heights opposite Black Rock, on which ground his advance was posted. I ordered the troops to return to their cantonments, the weather being inconveniently severe and not being in possession of any information relative to the situation of the enemy's main body, his intentions or numbers, (remaining on this shore,) sufficiently positive to warrant my committing the troops by a forward movement. It is evident that he has abandoned all idea of offensive operations against this frontier, and I doubt not by to-morrow morning receiving positive accounts of his having crossed the whole of his force, (except perhaps five or six hundred men left in Fort Erie,) to his own shore. I am scrry it has not been in my power to inflict some punishment on him at the moment of his departure, (as an additional memento.) I feel, however, that it would be imprudent, without good information, to attempt it, and I also feel perfectly convinced that sufficient has been done by this gallant division during this campaign effectually to deter the enemy from ever again attempting the invasion of this frontier. It has been practically demonstrated that the Chippawa is not only a defensible position but an exceedingly strong one, as it was always heretofore understood and believed to be, and, strengthened as it now is from its mouth to Weishuhn's, I have no doubt in giving my opinion that 1,500 men with a few disposable field guns would maintain it against any numbers which the enemy could bring. Your Excellency's apprehensions for the right of this position have arisen from the omission in the sketch of the word "impassable" for everything but infantry, by which all the roads leading in that direction should have been characterized.

The squadron sailed last night, having on board the remains of the 1st Battn. King's Regiment and the flank companies 104th. I have furnished Sir James Yeo with a memorandum with reference to my last communication to Your Excellency, proposing to him to bring up any two regiments Your Excellency might think proper to send for the relief of the worn out regiments of this division, which, or as many as possible, I propose to send down by the squadron. Those I am most anxious to get down are the 100th, 103d, Royals, De Watteville's, and 41st. The 89th and Glengarry Light Infantry I propose sending over to York with the Incorporated Militia.

There is so much disease in the 103d and that corps is in every other respect so useless and inefficient, there is so much occasion for an efficient regiment in the neighbourhood of Burlington, that I am particularly desirous this object should be effected. I should propose, however, to place the greatest part of the corps at Turkey Point, in a strong work I recommended to be constructed, and where, for various reasons, I should strongly advise the formation of the proposed naval establishment, instead of on the shore of Lake Huron. In fact, my own impression is that the obstacles in the way of this establishment at the latter place would be found to be insurmountable. I shall, however, write more fully on this subject. Captain Payne is arrived, but as I considered it absolutely necessary that a naval officer as well as a builder should accompany him in his survey I shall detain him here until the return of the squadron. I have already had some conversation with Sir James Yeo on the subject.

As I consider my presence on this frontier no longer absolutely required, it is my intention to return on the squadron to Kingston, leaving Major-General Stovin in this command, (the arrangement of which shall be transmitted to Your Excellency, (with reference to the late General Order,) as soon as I have leisure to make them. Major-General De Watteville's family having arrived in this country, I would propose to Your Excellency that Major-General Robinson should proceed to this frontier, (where, moreover, he will find the greatest part of Major-General Kempt's brigade assembled,) to assist Major-General Stovin in the duties of this most important command, Major-General De Watteville relieving him in the command of the centre division at Kingston.

With reference to the arrangement of the departmental staff for Upper Canada contained in the General Order of the 15th inst., I must beg leave to recommend the Deputy-Adjutant-General be allowed a subaltern officer as a temporary deputy-assistant to him in succession to Lieutenant Moorsom, or a confidential clerk with

an adequate salary. I have had constant opportunities of witnessing the necessity of Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey being allowed some assistance of this nature in the various important duties he has to perform.

Referring to a passage in Your Excellency's letter of the 17th, received yesterday, I have the honor to enclose an extract of a letter addressed by Commodore Sir James Yeo to the Deputy-Adjutant-General in answer to an application which I had directed Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey to make to him for the aid of a body of marines.

P. S.—The Western Indians are without necessaries; their goods are now lying in store at Kingston. It is very desirable they should be forwarded by the squadron.

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### District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS,  
NIAGARA FALLS, 24th October, 1814.

No. 1. The following movement of troops will take place immediately:

The 89th Regiment to Queenston.

100th Regiment to Fort Missassauga.

Flank companies 41st and De Watteville's to join their regiments.

Incorporated Militia to Butler's Barracks at Fort George.

No. 2. The following will be the probable arrangement of the corps in winter quarters:

6th Regiment—Chippawa.

82nd " —Burlington.

90th " —Queenston.

97th " —Lundy's Lane.

Royals,

41st and

De Watteville's,

} Forts and Butler's Barracks.

The 89th, Glengarry Light Infantry, and Incorporated Militia—York.

103d—Burlington until relieved.

No. 3. The King's, 100th, and 103d Regiments—Lower Canada, as also the Royals, 41st and De Watteville's, in the event of a sufficient number of troops arriving from below to relieve these corps, which will proceed in the order in which they are named.

No. 4. The troops composing the Right Division will be divided,

conformably to the General Order of the 15th inst., into two brigades, of which those immediately on the frontier will compose one, and the troops at York and the regiment at Burlington the other.

No. 5. Major-General De Watteville will command the frontier brigade, and Colonel McNair, of the 90th, the senior Colonel with the division, that at York.

No. 6. The following staff officers are attached to the divisional and brigade staff of the Right Division :

The Major-General, commanding the division.

Major Sparrow, Assistant-Adjutant-General.

Major Cockburn, Assistant-Quartermaster-General.

To the frontier brigade :

Major D'Alton, Brigade Major.

Captain Chambers, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General.

To the brigade of which the headquarters are at York :

Major Holland, Brigade Major.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maule, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General.

Major Holland will not proceed to his station until he is directed by the Major-General commanding the division to do so.

No. 7. In parting with the 1st Battalion, King's Regiment, Lieutenant-General Drummond desires Lieutenant-Colonel Ogilvie, the officers and soldiers of that regiment, to accept his best thanks for their excellent conduct while in this Province, and his best wishes for their welfare and success.

It is a circumstance highly creditable to this corps that its excellent interior system and the *esprit de corps*, for which it has been always remarkable, has not been impaired by the very heavy losses it has sustained, particularly of officers, in two very severe campaigns.

No. 8. All men belonging to the regiments under orders to proceed to the Lower Province are to accompany their corps.

No. 9. The squadron of the 19th Light Dragoons will be held in readiness to proceed to the Lower Province.

No. 10. His Excellency the Commander of the Forces having confirmed and directed the execution of the awful penalty of death passed upon privates William Ward and Henry Webb of the 100th Regiment and John McMahan of the Royal Scots, Major General Stovin will accordingly see them carried into effect on the prisoners, privates William Ward and Henry Webb of the 100th Regiment on Thursday next, the 27th, in presence of the 100th Regiment and such troops composing the garrisons of the forts as can be conveniently assembled for that purpose. Private John

McMahon to be immediately sent up, under a sufficient escort, to his regiment for the purpose of undergoing the sentence of death passed upon him, on Thursday next, at the same hour, and at such place as Major-General De Watteville may appoint. The Major-General will superintend the execution of the sentence in presence of the Royals and such other corps as can be conveniently assembled.

No. 11. The temporary arrangement of the field brigades in orders yesterday is cancelled, and Major-General Stovin will be pleased to return to Fort George.

No. 12. Staff-Surgeon Mabey has leave immediately to proceed to the Lower Province for the recovery of his health, at the recommendation of a medical board.

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**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

NIAGARA FALLS, 23rd October, 1814.

SIR,—Sometime since I stated to Your Excellency that my very indifferent state of health would not admit of my using the exertions I felt necessary to make in the important discharge of my duty. In consequence of an internal complaint occasioned by an injury I received some months before I came out to this country, which is increased so much of late as to give me the greatest measure of alarm, and from which I continually suffer extreme distress, particularly when under the necessity of using violent exercise on horseback, places me under the absolute necessity of requesting Your Excellency's permission to return to England before the season closes. I have also private business of the most important and urgent nature that requires my presence.

I have postponed making this application to the latest moment, but as all active operations for this season must now cease, I trust Your Excellency will have the goodness to accede to my request, which will be conferring a particular favor.

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**Brigadier-General D. Bissell to Major-General Izard.**

CAMP, FRENCHMAN'S CREEK,

October 22, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that in obedience to your orders of the 18th instant I proceeded with about 900 men of my brigade, a company of riflemen under Captain Irvine, and a small party of dragoons under Lieutenant Anspaugh, by very bad roads and creeks, the bridges over which were broken down, to Cook's

Mills on Lyon's Creek, a branch of the Chippawa, and encamped for the night. Near that place the enemy had stationed a militia picket of twenty men, commanded by a Captain, who made their escape on our approach, the Captain excepted, who was taken. Their picket of regulars found at this place was driven in, and I threw across at that place, (the only one at which it was practicable,) the two elite companies under Captain Dorman, Fifth, and Lieutenant Horrel, 16th Infantry, and the riflemen under Captain Irvine. Our advanced picket on the Chippawa road, commanded by Lieutenant Gassaway, was attacked in the night by two companies of the Glengarry Light Infantry, who were beaten off with the loss of one man only. On the morning of the 19th we were attacked by the enemy in force, from the best information amounting to more than 1,200 men, composed of the 82nd and 89th Regiments of foot, detachments of the 100th, 104th, the Glengarry Light Infantry, a few dragoons, and rocketteers and one piece of artillery, the whole commanded by the Marquess of Tweeddale, Colonel of the 100th.

The light troops under Captain Dorman and Irvine's riflemen sustained the whole fire of the enemy for about fifteen minutes with the greatest gallantry, until the other troops were formed and brought to their support.

The 5th Regiment, under Colonel Pinckney, aided by Major Baker of the 45th attached to that regiment, was ordered to skirt the woods and turn the enemy's right flank, and if possible to cut off the piece of artillery.

Major Bernard with the 14th was ordered at the same time to form in front, advance to support the light troops, and charge the artillery; the 15th Regiment, under Major Grindage, and 16th, under Colonel Pierce, were ordered to act as circumstances might require.

The well directed fire of the elite corps, riflemen, and gallant charge of the 14th soon compelled the enemy to give ground, and on discovering that his right flank was turned by the intrepid move of Colonel Pinckney, he retreated in the utmost confusion, leaving some killed, wounded and prisoners. We pursued to a ravine some distance from the scene where the action commenced. Not knowing the ground, I did not think proper to push them further, but soon after reconnoitred the country and discovered that they had retreated to their stronghold at the mouth of the river, about seven miles distant.

To the officers and men engaged great credit is due for their zeal and intrepidity, and to those who had not an opportunity to come into action for the promptitude with which they obeyed our

orders. All did their duty—but the handsome manner in which Major Bernard brought his regiment into action, and the gallant conduct of the Elite, under Captain Dorman, deserve particular notice. I am much indebted to that distinguished officer, Colonel Snelling, Inspector-General, for his able services through the action, and much praise is due my aid, Captain Allison (whose horse was shot under him) and Brigade Major Prestman, for their intrepid and useful services in every situation. Lieutenant Anspaugh of the dragoons rendered me much service in communicating my orders. It is justly due, and I may be permitted to add, that every officer and private behaved with that skill and gallantry which will do honor to the American arms. We found in the mills at that place about 150 or 200 bushels of wheat belonging to the enemy, which I ordered to be destroyed. The enemy having retreated to his batteries on the Chippawa, in obedience to your orders I returned, leaving the causeway, bridges, &c., entire. I annex for your information a return of killed and wounded.

N. B.—Acute nervous attacks must be my apology for the delay and imperfections of this report. D. B.

*(From Brannan's Official Letters.)*

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**Report of the Killed and Wounded of the Second Brigade, Under the Command of Brigadier-General Bissell, in the Affair of the 19th October, 1814.**

Fifth Regiment—Killed: 5 privates; wounded: 1 captain, 1 subaltern, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 9 privates—total, 19.

Fourteenth Regiment—Killed: 1 sergeant, 6 privates; wounded: 1 subaltern, 2 corporals, 16 privates—total, 26.

Twelfth Regiment—Wounded: 1 private—total, 1.

Sixteenth Regiment—Wounded: 1 subaltern, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 6 privates, 1 prisoner—total, 10.

Riflemen—Wounded: 1 subaltern, 2 corporals, 8 privates—total, 11.

*Names of Officers Wounded.*

5th Regt.—Captain Bell, Ensign Whitehead.

14th Regt.—Lieutenant Becket.

16th Regt.—Lieutenant Thomas.

Riflemen—Lieutenant Spurr.

*(From Brannan's Official Letters.)*

**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS OF THE NORTHERN ARMY,  
CAMP NEAR FORT ERIE, Oct. 23rd, 1814.

The indisposition of Brigadier-General Bissell has prevented till this morning his report of the handsome affair which took place on the 19th, between a detachment of his brigade and a superior force of the enemy.

The object of the expedition entrusted to the Brigadier was the seizure of some provisions intended for the British troops. He marched from Black Creek on the morning of the 18th, with parts of the 5th, 14th, 15th, and 16th Infantry, a small party of dragoons and a company of riflemen—the whole, 900 men. After driving before them a picket, of which they made the commanding officer prisoner, they encamped for the night, throwing beyond Lyon's Creek two light infantry companies under Captain Dorman, 5th, and Lieutenant Horrell, 16th Infantry, and the riflemen under Captain Irvine; a picket on the Chippawa road, commanded by Lieut. Gassaway, was attacked by two companies of Glengarry Light Infantry, which were beaten back with loss. On the morning of the 19th the detachment was attacked by a select corps of the enemy, not less than 1,200 strong. The light infantry, under Captain Dorman, and Irvine's riflemen sustained the whole fire of the enemy for fifteen minutes, during which the 5th and 14th were formed—the 5th was ordered to turn the enemy's right flank while the 14th charged them in front. This was executed in the most gallant manner by Colonel Pinckney of the 5th, and Major Barnard of the 14th, who greatly distinguished himself by the officer-like style in which he conducted his battalion. The enemy were compelled to a precipitate retreat, and hid themselves once more behind their fortifications.

General Bissell particularly mentions the skill and intrepidity of Major Snelling, Inspector-General; Colonel Pinckney, commanding the 5th Regiment; Major Barnard, 14th Infantry; Major Barker, 45th Infantry, acting with the 5th; Captain Dorman, Captain Allison, whose horse was shot under him, and Brigade-Major Lieutenant Prestman of the 5th. Lieutenant Anspaugh of the Dragoons was conspicuous by his alertness in communicating the Brigadier-General's orders during the action. It is with the highest satisfaction the Commanding General tenders to the brave officers and troops of the 2nd Brigade of the Right Division his thanks for their good conduct on this occasion. The firmness of the 15th and 16th Regiments, commanded by Colonel Pearce, and who were posted as a reserve, proved that had the resistance of the enemy afforded them an opportunity of going into action they

would have emulated the valor of the 5th and 14th. A number of prisoners were taken, among whom a picket of dragoons with their horses; a large quantity of grain also fell into our hands. The Brigadier, after completing the orders he received and burying the few of our brave soldiers who fell in the action and the dead of the enemy, which were left on the ground by the latter, returned to Black Creek. To the cool and intrepid conduct of Brigadier-General Bissell the General offers the praise he has so justly entitled himself to.

By order of Major-General Izard.

C. K. GARDNER,  
Adj.-Gen. N. Army.

*(From Brannan's Official Letters.)*

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**Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.**

CAMP OPPOSITE BLACK ROCK,  
October 23rd, 1814.

On the 17th and 18th instant I manœuvred with the army under my command in front of Chippawa in the hope of drawing the enemy out into the field, but in vain. When I retired a few miles, his light parties observed us with great caution, and whenever we returned toward them they took shelter in their works. Having been informed that there was a considerable quantity of grain collected for the British troops at Cook's Mills on Lyon's Creek twelve miles above Chippawa, I detached Brigadier-General Bissell with nine hundred infantry, on the morning of the 18th, to seize it, and, (if impracticable to convey it to our camp,) he had orders to destroy it. Enclosed is the Brigadier's report. The enemy was completely routed and suffered severely. I transmit a return of our loss both there and in the cannonade before Chippawa, which, under the circumstances of the case, has been small. The conduct of Brigadier-General Bissell has been marked by coolness and the most undaunted intrepidity. During the whole campaign I have received great advantage from the assistance of this valuable officer. His zeal and his attention to discipline have been unremitting. I beg leave to recommend him particularly to the notice of the Government. The officers who are mentioned in his letter also deserve great commendation for their uniform good conduct since I have had the command of the army. During the absence of this detachment I learned from several quarters that the British fleet had arrived at the mouth of the Niagara, and that troops and stores were landing at Fort George. This intelligence induced me

to hope that the enemy would be encouraged to accept the battle I had so frequently offered him ; I therefore took a position at Black Creek, leaving the bridges we had thrown over the various streams in good repair for their accommodation. On the 21st, finding that he still continued within his works, which he had been assiduously engaged in strengthening from the moment of our first appearance, the weather beginning to be severe and a great number of our officers and men suffering from their continued fatigue and exposure, at 12 at noon I broke up my encampment and marched to this ground in order to prepare winter quarters for the troops. Major-General Brown addressed a note to me on the 19th, suggesting his wish to be ordered immediately to Sackett's Harbor, where he should precede his division, which I had informed him it was my intention to station there this winter. In compliance with his request, he was directed to proceed to that post, which he did on the 20th. The infantry remaining of his late force is placed under the command of Brigadier-General Winder, (who joined me a few days ago,) and will commence its march for Sackett's Harbor to-morrow, I shall endeavor to secure Fort Erie from insult by perfecting its defences, and, having selected convenient ground at Black Rock, shall lose no time in constructing huts for the army. It needs repose. The dysentery has already commenced its ravages among all ranks, and our sick list is increasing daily. I beg leave to apologize for any omission in the present communication. The weather is very cold and stormy and the ground wet. As soon as I shall have made my first arrangements, I will do myself the honor of giving you precise information on the subject.

*(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)*

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**Major Salmon, Norfolk Militia, to Lieutenant-Colonel Parry,  
103d Regiment.**

MY DEAR SIR.—We have received the communication from the widow Thomas's, and will forward it to Burford. I am sorry to inform you Dickson's party have murdered old Captain Francis. He slept in the new house, and the family that works the farm in the old house adjoining. They came in the night to the old part and insisted on having Francis. They said he was in the next house, to which they proceeded. The old man said he would surrender himself a prisoner, but begged them to spare his life, which they declared they would not. He then looked out of the upper window to see if there was any way to escape, and was shot through the head. The family heard him fall. They then desired

them to take out the goods, but would not suffer his remains to be removed, which was burned with the house. The adjoining family saw but three men, one of whom was Dickson, but from their conversation believe the party consisted of 30. They arrived early last evening and paroled some of the neighbours. I have only learned the name of Long, who lately kept a distillery near Finch's. At Culver's there are but 3 effective men. I cannot think, with such a party so near, that the stores can be considered safe. The guards at the mills too, should, I think, be strengthened. I mean to turn out 20 men to-morrow, and have written Colonel Ryerson to do likewise, and will keep them out till Drake's return with your order. I saw myself 22 boats of flour off from Teesdale's mill Thursday last. We are very short of ammunition—no flints.

I have the honor to be,

GEORGE C. SALMON,

Maj. Comd'g.

WOODHOUSE, Oct. 22, 1814.

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**Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Talbot to Lieutenant-Colonel Parry**

MY DEAR COLONEL,—I have this moment received a letter from Major Salmon relating the shocking murder of poor old Francis, by Dickson and party. We must order out a greater force of militia for the guards. A communication should be immediately made of the circumstances of Francis's murder, in order that General Drummond should represent it to the American General and Government. Pray order Drake's certificate for riding express to be paid.

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**John B. Askin to——**

TUESDAY, 12 o'clock at night.

SIR,—I am to inform you that at dusk this evening we were alarmed with the Indians' *news hallow*, and on inquiry find that the enemy have landed a force (to what extent I cannot say) at the mouth of this river. At this time we are again up. The Indian messengers inform that the enemy began their march after sundown towards this place. Our Indians here are collecting to meet them, and if possible give our people time to prepare for an action. They are much alarmed for their families, who are beginning to flee to the woods.

They are of opinion that the enemy are trying to cut off our retreat to Burlington Heights and form a junction with those who [are] to come from Detroit.

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

HEADQUARTERS, UPPER CANADA,

NIAGARA FALLS, 26th October, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Adjutant-General's communication, (in cypher,) of the 21st in answer to mine of the 15th, announcing Your Excellency's intention of sending the 9th and 37th Regiments, and of proceeding yourself to this frontier in the squadron.

As I conclude, my subsequent letters, particularly that of the 23rd, would have the effect of inducing Your Excellency to relinquish this latter idea, I shall continue to address Your Excellency at Kingston, to which place I have already intimated that it is my intention to proceed by the return of the squadron.

The main body of the enemy continues in Fort Erie and encamped close to it—its picquets thrown out a very short distance, and in every other respect evincing very little precaution against attack, or rather in some respects, such as leaving the bridges uninjured, appearing to invite our advance. My information leads me to believe that General Brown with a portion of his army has crossed the river, and, they say, has proceeded in the direction of Sackett's Harbor. There remains therefore only General Izard with part of Brown's army, which, if I succeed in gaining good information respecting their exact force and situation, I may be induced, when joined by the left wing of the 90th Regiment, to attack, but without good information I shall not commit the troops by this operation.

I have some time ago received information from various sources of the enemy's intention to push on a party of mounted men from Detroit up the River Thames towards Burlington. I have this evening received accounts from Lieutenant-Colonels Parry and Smelt of the approach of this party, (the strength of which is variously stated,) and at the same time a report has arrived of a body of the enemy having landed at the mouth of the Grand River. Both of these reports are of a nature very confused and indistinct, and I doubt not will prove that the parties in question are a small number of plunderers whom the armed settlers of the country ought to repel. I have, however, permitted the Grand River Indians, under Captain Norton, (who had only arrived on this frontier three days ago, after the enemy had retreated,) to return to their homes, as also the few men, who had come out, of the 5th Lincoln Militia. I have likewise detached one of the troops of the 19th Dragoons to Ancaster, which will be so far on the way to the Lower Province should Your Excellency consent to the proposition I have made for the relief of Major Lisle's squadron.

I enclose a letter and note forwarded by Lieutenant-Colonel Parry relative to a most atrocious murder committed by a small gang of ruffians on Captain Francis of the Norfolk Militia. On the whole, Your Excellency will agree with me that it is very necessary that an efficient regiment should be sent to Burlington.

I beg to remind Your Excellency of the necessity of the appointment of an Assistant-Provost-Marshal to this Division.

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**Lieut.-Colonel Wm. Smelt, 103d Regiment, to the Officer Commanding at York.**

BURLINGTON HEIGHTS, October 26th, 1814.

SIR,—I beg leave to report that an express arrived here this morning with the information that the enemy had landed a force at the mouth of the Grand River, and are marching towards this place. In my own opinion it can be nothing more than a marauding [party], as I do not conceive they would venture so far into the country unless they had a very large force, which I do not hear to be the case. The whole of the effective men of the 103d will move forward in the course of the day towards the Grand River.

P. S.—I forgot to mention that there is a report of another party coming down from Detroit.

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**Lieutenant-Colonel John G. P. Tucker to the Adjutant-General.**

YORK, October 27th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward to you for the information of His Excellency the Captain-General a letter I have just received from Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt of the 103rd, announcing the landing of a force at the mouth of the Grand River or Ouse.

It has long been my opinion that the most prominent object of the enemy was, and is, to occupy Burlington and York during the winter, and that he would move a very considerable body down the Ouse for that purpose, which, I apprehend, is now the case, and that his force at Erie and in front of Chippawa is only displayed as a mask for the projected operations against Burlington. I fear our information relative to the actual strength of our enemy is generally very defective, and that Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt is in error in supposing that the American General would detach a marauding party of considerable strength to the River Ouse from so great a distance as Detroit.

I hope I shall stand pardoned for presuming to offer an opinion.

**Militia General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS,  
FALLS OF NIAGARA, October 28th, 1814.

At a General Court Martial held at Stamford on the 25th instant, and continued by adjournment to the 28th of the same month, Private John McMillan of the 2nd Regiment of Lincoln Militia was arraigned on the following charges, viz:

1st.—For having deserted to the enemy with his arms and accoutrements when on duty, on or about the 6th of October, 1813.

2nd.—For having been taken bearing arms in the service of the enemy, on or about the 17th of September last.

And the court, after duly considering the evidence for the prosecution and on behalf of the prisoner, were clearly of opinion that he is guilty of both charges, and therefore sentence him to suffer death at such place and time as His Honor the President may be pleased to direct.

His Honor the President approves the finding and sentence of the court, and directs that the same be carried into execution at Bridgewater on Monday morning next, the 31st instant, at 11 o'clock.

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost**

HEADQUARTERS,  
FALLS OF NIAGARA, 30th October, 1814.

SIR,—Since my last I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's letter of the 25th, together with one from the Adjutant-General of the same date. If the squadron brings up only one regiment it will be necessary that it should make another trip, and at all events that the smaller vessels should come up again, an arrangement that I shall propose to Sir James Yeo, and to which I cannot anticipate any reasonable objection. I imagine Major-General Baynes had made a mistake in the cypher part of the communication which states the issue of rations on this frontier at 4,000 daily. A reference to the weekly returns of the Commissariat Department will show that nearly *double* that number are issued daily with this division, exclusive of Burlington and York: a famine therefore would be the consequence of any hesitation or refusal on the part of the naval commander to take down the regiments which have been relieved.

Major-General Brown, with the greatest part of his force, has undertaken the march to Sackett's Harbor, (perhaps expecting to be met by Commodore Chauncey on his way.) Major-General

Izard's army remains on this frontier, and is, it is said, to be put into winter quarters at Black Rock, Buffalo, Williamsville, (11-Mile Creek,) and Batavia, leaving a sufficient garrison in Fort Erie.

The weather has been so bad, and my information so defective, that I have thought it inexpedient to harass the troops by any forward movement towards the enemy at Fort Erie. Indeed I have considered it to be more polite to allow all alarm to subside, and I am persuaded the acquisition of Fort Erie will not be found difficult whenever the proper moment for attacking it shall arrive. I shall leave full instructions with Major-General Stovin on this subject. I enclose a copy of a District General Order which I have this day issued to this division, and I am persuaded Your Excellency will concur in the tribute of applause which is therein paid to the troops and departments. No material change has taken place in the quarters of the corps since my last. Our advance is at Black Creek, with the picquets and patrols beyond it. We are busily employed in completing the defences of the mouth of the Chippawa, and in preparing cover for the troops destined to remain on this frontier during the winter.

In these labors the greatest benefit would have been derived from the aid of the company of sappers and miners, which Captain Payne states to be unemployed at La Colle, and which on this frontier would be a treasure.

The distribution of the corps will probably be as follows: the 6th, Chippawa; 82d, Lundy's Lane and Stamford; 90th, Queenston, and the remaining corps in the forts: 37th, Burlington and Long Point.

The report of the enemy advancing from the westward and the mouth of the Grand River has, as I expected, proved a false alarm, raised by Indians of the Five Nations, whom I have directed Captain Norton to use his best endeavors to discover.

I have offered a reward of two hundred pounds for the apprehension and conviction of the murderers of Captain Francis.

Continuing on more mature consideration impressed with the difficulty, and indeed, impracticability of any attempt to effect anything at the present season towards carrying out Your Excellency's wishes and instructions into effect with regard to the formation of a naval establishment on Lake Huron, I propose detaching Captain Payne, (on the arrival of the squadron,) in concert with some intelligent naval officer, to examine and report upon the advantages which the neighbourhood of Turkey Point may be found to offer for such an establishment. With the aid of a considerable detachment of the 37th Regiment, which I propose stationing at that place, much might, I think, be done towards a respectable

work there, even before the close of the present season, and the winter would be no interruption to the labors of the shipwright.

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**District General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS,  
NIAGARA FALLS, 30th October, 1814.

No. 1. Lieutenant-General Drummond cannot quit the headquarters of the Right Division of the army without repeating to the gallant troops of which it is composed the public expressions of his best thanks for their uniform good conduct during the late short but arduous campaign, in which their eagerness to meet the enemy without regard to the disparity of numbers or advantage of situation, their patient endurance of labor and fatigue and of the inclemency of an extraordinarily rigorous season, are circumstances which have excited the Lieutenant-General's admiration, and which he has not failed to report to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

2 Major-Generals Stovin and De Watteville will be pleased to accept Lieutenant-General Drummond's grateful thanks for the able assistance they have afforded him.

3. To the different departments of the army, Lieutenant-General Drummond feels himself called upon to express his entire approbation of their exertions, and Colonel Myers, the Deputy-Quartermaster-General, Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, the Deputy-Adjutant-General, P. Turquand, Esquire, Deputy-Commissary-General, and Dr. Erly, the Acting-Deputy-Inspector of hospitals, will accept the Lieutenant-General's best thanks, and will convey them to the officers of their respective departments.

4. The services of the artillery and engineers' branches have been equally meritorious, and Major Phillott and Captain Romilly will communicate the Lieutenant-General's thanks to all under their respective commands.

Lieutenant-General Drummond is highly satisfied with the assistance which has been afforded him by Captain Foster, his military secretary, and the officers of his personal staff.

Lieutenant-General Drummond proposes to transfer his headquarters to Kingston by the return of the squadron.

J. HARVEY,  
Lt.-Col. D. A. G.

**General Izard to General Porter.**

HEADQUARTERS,  
BUFFALO, November 1st, 1814.

*Major-General Porter, New York Militia:*

DEAR SIR,—If you could impress the principles on which the papers enclosed in your note of the 28th October are predicated on the people of our country at large, you would do more towards bringing the war to a speedy and honorable termination than all the acts of Congress and votes of town meetings from one end of the United States to the other. As to Captain Watson's company, I had heard of its flight before I crossed the streight, and have substituted a company of regulars, who are now at work there. If some of the intelligent men among them would volunteer to assist us it would [torn] much credit and us much service, [torn] can be done; have the goodness to direct them to report to Doctor Bull, hospital surgeon at Williamsville.

*(From MSS. of Hon. Peter A. Porter.)*

**Major Totten, U. S. Engineers, to Major-General Izard.**

FORT ERIE, November 1st, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that from the progress already made in preparations for the explosion of these works, three more days may be estimated as sufficient. It is proper to state the impossibility of sinking our shafts to a depth to give the greatest effect to our powder, from the circumstance of meeting veins of water in almost every instance of our attempts. More powder will constantly be requisite, nor indeed will that resource give us the means of complete destruction. The materials of the bastions also (the toughest clay and masonry) require 20 lbs. of powder to the cubic toise—a proportion unusually large.

I beg leave to enclose for your order a return of the ordnance-master. The quantity is doubtless more than sufficient. I am desirous of having on hand enough to meet contingencies.

*(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)*

**Lieut.-Col. Hindman, U. S. Artillery, to Major-General Izard.**

FORT ERIE, November 2, 1814.

SIR,—I have this moment received a flag which I send you by Lieut. Robinson of the dragoons. It is evident from some improper questions asked the picket guard that something is brewing. A

dragoon deserted last night from my picket guard. He will be able to tell the enemy much. By to-morrow night I think we shall be ready to blow up the place. If heavy boats are not sent, there will be a great sacrifice of artillery. I sent over yesterday ten or twelve pieces of heavy ordnance. I have fifteen or sixteen still here, and some heavy. I want boats to transport them to the other side. We have horses and oxen, which can only be transported from opposite the Rock, but I fear the enemy will seize upon the ferry.

*(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)*

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### General Orders.

BATAVIA, November 2d, 1814.

It is with sensations of mortification and pain that Major-General Porter is constrained to announce to the volunteers and militia under his command, that instead of the arrival of the district paymaster on this day with funds to pay off these troops, as had been confidently anticipated and promised, he has just received a letter from him stating that these monies, though daily expected, have not yet been received by him.

This failure, the Major-General assures the troops, is not ascribable to any of the officers of his corps, but, he fears, to the neglect of the higher functionaries in the paymaster's department. The Legislature of the State of New York has not been unmindful of its citizens on the Niagara, having passed a law no longer ago than last week to give them an additional pay of five dollars per month.

In consequence of the longer service of the six months' volunteers it is presumed that they are most destitute of funds, and the Major-General with Colonel Dobbin, Majors Lee and Matteson, have been enabled to obtain on loan a small sum of money, which will be distributed among this corps to enable them to meet their present necessities. The Major-General earnestly recommends to the men not to be influenced by the representations of speculators to dispose of their expected pay at a reduced value, as he is confident they will receive the whole in a few days.

Judging from his own feelings how anxious all must feel to return to their homes at this late season of the year and after an arduous campaign, the Major-General has thought best not to detain them any longer waiting for their pay, but to discharge them immediately, and, in order to give them time and some small means

of reaching their homes, he will cause them to be mustered up to the 8th of this month and furnish them provisions to the same period.

The commandants of companies will see that their men are properly mustered, and that the papers necessary to their payment are completed, after which they will deposit their arms, equipments and camp equipage by companies in the arsenal, and discharge the men excepting those under guard. The commandants of companies are authorized to sign the discharges. Waggons will be provided for the sick.

The Major-General cannot take leave of companions so strongly endeared to him by the participation of common labors and hazards without painful regret. He sincerely wishes them a happy return and hearty welcome to their friends and families. This return will be sweetened by the recollection that the toils and perils which they have undergone have not been lost to their country, but that to them and their brave associates on the Niagara frontier this part of the country is indebted for its present safety, and the nation to a reiteration of its former military renown.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

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**Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.**

BUFFALO, November 2nd, 1814.

SIR,—Severe indisposition, which scarcely left me faculties to execute the indispensable duties of routine, has prevented me from sooner communicating to you the occurrence, on the frontier since the 23d ultimo—the date of the last letter I had the honor of addressing to you. The infantry of Major-General Brown's division, under Brigadier-General Winder, proceeded, (as was intended,) on the 24th, and must be now well on its way to Sackett's Harbor. I entertain great doubts of the enemy attacking that place this winter, but even should they do so this reinforcement of troops, who have seen severe service, will be a most important addition to its defence. The crowds of disorganized, unarmed militia, which have assembled there in the last few weeks, would be of more disadvantage than service. A letter from a Brigadier-General Tucker of the New York Militia, dated the 20th ultimo, states the number to be then between four and six thousand, without guns, mutinous, and determined to move off, (as they came,) *en masse* on the 25th inst., should they not be previously discharged. The arrival of Major-General Brown will, I hope, have the effect of calming these people, to whom he has for years been personally known, and

among whom he is popular. I am happy under every point of view in having thus anticipated your instructions of the 24th, which, with the order of the 19th relative to ordnance stores, reached me two days ago. A private letter of a late date from Detroit, which was read to me by an officer of my staff the day previous to receiving your despatches, stated the fact of the arrival at that post of McArthur's command of mounted riflemen seven or eight hundred strong. These would, I trust, secure it for the present. From hence it would take a body of men at least twenty-four days to march round the lake to Detroit, and baggage and supplies could not, in the present condition of the roads, accompany them at all.

I despatched, however, immediately an express to General McArthur to know his situation, and should means of water conveyance occur and the situation of things here permit the movement, I will send him such forces as can be spared. The regiment you allude to from that quarter, and which arrived at Fort Erie a few days before me, is by no means as strong as stated in your letter. By yesterday's report it has only twenty-one officers and four hundred and seventy-six non-commissioned officers and privates fit for duty. Further changes have taken place in this quarter, which must again govern my operations. When before Chippawa, the impression left by General Brown's estimates and observations, was that the remaining British regular forces for the field before us was rather under than over four thousand men, (including the garrisons of the forts below, perhaps five hundred men). It was also reported by our spies near the mouth of the strait that the fleet landed only a few hundred troops, but that the bulk of their cargoes consisted in provisions and stores. This was only in part true. It now seems from the deposition of deserters, corroborated by more recent observations, that the troops were one thousand six hundred in number, besides whom four hundred exchanged prisoners (of the 41st Regiment from Erie) had immediately been put upon duty, and the whole advanced to Chippawa.

Thus when General Brown's command and Porter's volunteers, (the latter highly commendable for having crossed when they did and having encouraged by their presence the fainting regulars at Fort Erie,) had repassed the strait, the relative change between the enemy's strength and mine exceeded four thousand men. If under this disparity of numbers we can keep in check their superior force, the object attained is no humble one. My own belief is that they have been in error respecting my original force, and are yet ignorant of the movement of Brigadier-General Winder's detachment. I cannot otherwise account for their cautious conduct in keeping

behind their intrenchments at a moment when, in the face of an open country, I have crossed at least six thousand troops of all descriptions with their horses, cannon and baggage, and with a complement of boats which could convey no more than six to seven hundred at a time. The last brigade, which has landed at Black Rock, is that of General Bissell; it reached the American shore in safety yesterday. For the two days previously the violence of the southwest wind rendered all communication from this shore to the other impracticable without being driven so low in the strait as would have thrown the boats within the British posts below.

While the storm lasted, (on the last day of which would expire the provisions for the whole force then left on the other side,) I was informed from several sources that these storms frequently continued a fortnight or three weeks in the month of November, and that in the course of the winter the interruption was often repeated. These things inspired no pleasing reflections. Fortunately the wind abated in time to relieve this important part of my army, and induced me to examine maturely the advantages and inconveniences of retaining Fort Erie under the American flag. I cannot find one of the former, (except its being a trophy,) which in any point of view would justify my exposing in a weak, ill planned and hastily repaired redoubt, (it scarcely deserves even that humble designation,) some hundreds of valuable officers and men, with the cannon and various stores, which, if it were taken, would necessarily fall with it into the hands of the enemy. It is as much unprotected in the winter by a force on this side as if it were fifty miles off. It commands nothing, not even the entrance of the strait, and should by any untoward accident the naval superiority on Lake Erie be recovered by the enemy, the garrison must at any season and in a very short time throw open the gates to anybody that would furnish them with the means of subsistence.

After much turning these thoughts and others of the same nature in my mind, I communicated the same separately to General Swartwout, Quartermaster-General, Brigadier-General Bissell, and Major Totten, my chief engineer. They each instantly and unequivocally expressed their satisfaction at learning my resolution, and I was at the same time informed that the desertions among the troops designated for the garrison had, since their destination was known, been daily and numerous. I have directed the secret to be vigorously kept, the work to be continued as if for huts and magazines, but in fact for fuel and mines, and on the 4th or 5th, (should the weather favor us and no attack be made previously by the enemy,) Fort Erie will be dismantled, evacuated and destroyed.

*(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)*

**Captain John Bostwick of the Norfolk Militia to the Officer  
Commanding at Long Point.**

YARMOUTH, TALBOT ROAD,  
3d November, 1814, 10 o'clock forenoon.

SIR,—Two men have this moment arrived from the River Thames, a few miles below Moravian [Town], with intelligence that the enemy, from 800 to 1000 men, mounted with two three-pounders and a howitzer, left the Moravian Town on Monday last at 11 o'clock in the morning, intending to encamp that night at Fleming's. The enemy's march was so secret it was not known they were on the Thames until they had been more than a day at Moravian [Town].

It appears they marched up the River St. Clair, circulating a report they were going against Saganau, crossed the river to Baldoon, proceeded up the Bear river until they were opposite Moravians and crossed over to that place, carrying their field-pieces on horses. The probability is that they were at Delaware or Westminster last night. The language in circulation with them at Moravians was that they were going to Burlington. But I cannot think their intentions are of that nature, but rather that they intend ravaging this district. They are composed almost entirely of Kentuckians, and undisciplined. The enemy is commanded by General McArthur.

I have sent some intelligent men early this morning to Delaware and Westminster.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, 103d Regiment, to Lieutenant-General  
Drummond.**

BURLINGTON HEIGHTS,  
ONE O'CLOCK P. M., November 5th.

SIR,—Lieut.-Col. Parry, being so unwell, has requested me to forward the enclosed letters. From all the information we get I believe, really, that the enemy are moving toward this place. I fear we shall not have more than three hundred regulars. He has called out the militia and ordered the Indians in, but I am sorry to say they are very slow in moving.

**Sir Gordon Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

HEADQUARTERS, FALLS OF NIAGARA,

5th November, 1814.

SIR,—Since my last I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's letters of the 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, and 31st: and the Adjutant-General's letter of the 29th.

Referring as the point of most importance to those parts of your communication expressing Your Excellency's wish that something should be attempted against the enemy at Fort Erie, I have the honor to state that, having given the subject the most mature consideration, I remain of the opinion that under actual circumstances it would not be prudent or politic at present to undertake any operation which has for its object any direct attack on Fort Erie. Not prudent, because I do not think it would be gained (at present) by a *coup de main*, or by surprise, and the state of the roads and the entire destruction of the bridges renders the movement of artillery impracticable, and the lateness of the season renders it highly inexpedient to expose troops to its severity, wholly unprovided as they are with camp equipage, and totally stripped of all cover as is the country in which they would have to act. Not politic, because I think the enemy will very shortly evacuate the place and save us the trouble of blowing up the works, and the loss of men which its acquisition would *now* cost us, and because I do not consider that he derives any decided advantage from the kind of occupation which he has of Fort Erie, nor am I of opinion that any impediment or embarrassment whatever will arise to the formation of our proposed naval establishment at Turkey Point from the enemy's occupation of Fort Erie. Impressed, however, with the deference which I owe to Your Excellency's wishes and opinion, I have no hesitation in sacrificing to it every consideration of personal convenience. I shall accordingly forego my intention of returning to Kingston by the squadron, and continue here myself to the latest possible period of the navigation, in the hope of finding an opportunity of effecting the expulsion of the enemy from the footing he still holds on this frontier, an object which, Your Excellency must be aware, I must have at heart in equal degree with Your Excellency.

But in looking to its attainment I shall consider it to be my duty not to pay a price beyond what I consider to be its real value. My own view is directed to the right bank of the Niagara, and not to Fort Erie, and with naval co-operation, that is to say with the aid of a body of seamen with boats, I should not despair, late as the season is, of being able to effect the defeat and destruction of Izard's army. Without this co-operation, however, it cannot be

attempted. In order to propose the co-operation to Sir James Yeo, and to discuss with him and the commissioner and come to a final decision on the proposed naval establishment, I shall hold to my intention of going over to York, from whence I shall return to this frontier, unless the receipt of intelligence of the evacuation of Fort Erie, and the refusal of Commodore Sir James Yeo to join in the proposed operations on the right bank of the Niagara, should render my return unnecessary.

I enclose a copy of a letter which I addressed to Commodore Sir James Yeo yesterday from Fort George, where I had gone for the sole purpose of meeting and conferring with him. Your Excellency will perceive by it that after throwing the troops hastily on shore Sir James has gone over to York with the 9-pounder brigade, the ordnance, provisions, and other stores which were embarked in the large ships. I hope he will send them over to the Niagara by the smaller vessels, as they might almost as well have been left at Kingston as be landed at York.

From York I shall again have the honor of communicating to Your Excellency any changes which may have taken place in the situation of the enemy and of my plans in consequence, as well as of the result of our discussion relative to the proposed establishment of the Upper Lakes, as not a moment is to be lost in acting upon the decision which may be adopted. I have again to remind Your Excellency of the importance of sending up Captain Payne's company of sappers and miners without the least delay.

Almost four hundred of the best effective of the 41st, the light company of the King's, the remainder of Captain Holcroft's company of Royal Artillery and some invalids and sick of different corps have already been embarked. I am in hopes, from a note just received from Sir James Yeo, that I may succeed in getting away the 103d and the remainder of the 41st. The latter corps I regret to part with, because in the spring I think it will be a very strong and efficient regiment, - by the former I lose nothing but useless mouths. The aggregate reduction of our issues will be very considerable by this arrangement, and the actual efficient numbers of the division very little diminished. Enough will, I hope, remain for any service which it may be found proper or practicable to undertake before the return of the vessels from Kingston, and far more than we could feed if left during the winter.

The information relative to the murder of Captain Francis was sent to Your Excellency in order that a communication to the American Government might be grounded upon it. I do not see what advantage could proceed from any communication on the subject with the commanding general of their troops in this quarter,

who could only refer such communication to his government. I have called upon Colonel Talbot for a more specific and explicit statement, which will be forwarded when received.

There is another subject of complaint to which it will be my duty to call Your Excellency's notice, relative to the conduct of the American Government, so soon as I procure the necessary information and documents. I allude to its violation of the conditions of the convention for the exchange of prisoners of war, in the instance of the 41st Regiment, and their shameful and cruel treatment of the officers and men of that corps, prisoners of war, by marching them to one of the most unhealthy parts of their territory, where they were suffered to linger in misery and want of everything necessary to health and comfort.

S P. M.

P. S.—I have deferred sending off my letter of this morning until the return of the officer of the Glengarry Light Infantry, who had been detached towards Fort Erie in consequence of a suspicion that the enemy was evacuating that place. Captain FitzGibbon, the officer alluded to, has this moment arrived at my headquarters with the full confirmation of this rumor. The enemy evacuated Fort Erie early this forenoon, having first blown up the the works and in every other respect completely destroyed and dismantled the place, an event on which I offer Your Excellency my sincere congratulations. Captain FitzGibbon rode through every part of the place, in which the enemy had left nothing except ten or twelve kegs of damaged musket ball cartridges.

This expected event will make no change in my intentions of passing over to York to seek an interview with the commander of His Majesty's squadron. On the contrary, I feel if possible more anxious than before to induce him to consent heartily to co-operate with this division, in which case I think this frontier may be effectually cleared of the enemy.

I cannot conclude this postscript without observing that the wanton outrage, robberies, and excesses lately committed by the enemy's army on this frontier demands a severe retaliation, and I would recommend Your Excellency to make the necessary communication to Sir Alexander Cochrane on the subject, unless you would prefer that it should be inflicted on the opposite frontier, a service which I consider this division is equal at any time effectually to perform.

**Edward Dance, Assistant Commissary General, to Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, 103d Regiment.**

MY DEAR SIR,—An Indian *News Call* is just arrived. I understand from Mr. Askin and Mr. Smith we can rely upon it. They left Malcolm's Mills after sundown. The Americans had then returned there and were proceeding this way. Three Shawanese are left behind to bring further news. I have thought it best to send on a runner to you directly. The principal chief of the Mohawks here has been very particular with them, and says it is certainly fact. The Indian idea seems to be that they are going back by the Governor's road, but this is only conjecture. They have sent to urge every Indian to pursue them or to resist at the river if they attempt to cross.

Yours very truly,  
ED. DANCE,  
A. C. G.

Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt,  
Fowlers.

**Major A. C. Muir, 41st Regiment, to the Officer Commanding at Burlington.**

WOODHOUSE, 4th November, 1814.  
One o'clock a. m.

SIR,—The enclosed I have received this instant, and I beg leave to observe that unless regular troops are immediately sent forward to meet the enemy, I am afraid that the militia will not be able to stop them of themselves, as there are not more than three hundred men in the two Norfolks. As it is still unknown what course they will take, we remain at Culver's ready to move.

**Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Bostwick, Oxford Militia, to ———**

BURFORD, 5th November, 1814.  
6 o'clock a. m.

DEAR SIR,—A man left Oxford this morning at 3 o'clock. When he left there the enemy were in Oxford in force, the messenger says two thousand. I retire to Malcolm's Mill with what force I have. Forward this information.

### A Proclamation.

By John Miller, Esquire, Colonel of the 17th Regiment United States Infantry, Military and Civil Commandant of that District of Upper Canada which is above the Round O on Lake Erie:

Whereas information has been received that the citizens of said district have on hand large quantities of surplus grain, and whereas it is deemed essential to the interests of the service, as well as beneficial to the citizens of said district, that the same should be purchased for the use of the States:

Therefore the citizens of the said district are required and positively commanded to bring and deliver to such persons and at such places as shall be hereafter specified, all the flour, wheat, and oats which they may have on hand more than is absolutely necessary for the use and consumption of their families and stock. The whole of said surplus flour and grain shall be delivered on or before the first day of November next. Those persons on the River Thames above and contiguous to Dolson's will deliver their flour and grain at that place. Those living below Dolson's and those on the Lake St. Clair and Detroit River, and on their waters as low down as the mouth of the Canard, will deliver their flour and grain at Detroit, and those living below the mouth of Canard River as far down Lake Erie as Point au Plait, will deliver theirs at Amherstburg. Major John H. Piatt, the Conductor, and Captain J. McCloskey, A. D. Quartermaster-General, will appoint agents at those places to receive and pay for the flour and grain so delivered, at the following prices: Six dollars per cwt. or twelve dollars per barrel for flour, one dollar and-a-half for wheat, and three-quarters of a dollar for oats, per bushel. Also flour, wheat and oats, over and above what will be absolutely necessary for domestic use, not delivered at one of the above places on or before the first day of November next, agreeable to this order, shall be immediately destroyed, and the person or persons withholding such supplies of flour or grain, or failing to deliver within the time prescribed, shall be severely punished. Three impartial persons shall be appointed to inspect whether more flour or grain has been withheld or kept back than is absolutely necessary for domestic use. The citizens within the vicinity of Dolson's will be held responsible in case the flour and grain deposited at that place is destroyed by secret or clandestine means. Given under my hand at Malden, U. C., this 26th Sept., 1814.

JOHN MILLER.

Col. 17th Regt. Comd.

MALDEN, 5th Nov., 1814.

N. B.—The time specified for delivery on the above proclamation being too limited, the officer commanding the Western District of Upper Canada deems it necessary to put it off to the 20th Dec. next, at which time no failures are expected from the inhabitants.

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**Report of a Meeting of the Loyal and Patriotic Society.**

At a meeting of directors of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society*, holden at the Chief Justice's, on Thursday, 3d November, 1814:

PRESENT.

The Honble Thomas Scott, Chief Justice, President.  
The Honble Wm. D. Powell, Vice-President.

*Directors*:—

Major Glegg,  
John B. Robinson, Esqr.  
Wm. Allan, Esqr.  
Grant Powell, Esqr.  
Wm. Chewett, Esqr.  
Alexander Wood, Esqr., *Secretary*.

A representation was read from Colonel Talbot to the society, requesting aid for twenty-seven families residing in the neighborhood of Port Talbot, stating that they have been robbed by the enemy who, on the 20th Sept. had returned to Port Talbot, burnt the mills and other buildings belonging to Colonel Talbot, together with the house and barn of Colonel Burwell and several others, extending their depredations sixteen miles down Talbot Road, taking all the horses and pillaging the houses of every article of clothing, and destroying such furniture as could not be carried away.

The society, taking the above representation into consideration, unanimously voted that one thousand dollars should be remitted to Colonel Talbot, to be disposed by him in like manner and under like regulations as the sum of five hundred pounds formerly granted to him for the relief of sufferers in his neighborhood, so far as existing circumstances will permit.

ALEXANDER WOOD,  
Secretary.

THOMAS SCOTT,  
President.

ANCASTER, 24th October, 1814.

MY DEAR CHIEF,—Your kindness to my representations when I was last at York, induces me to repeat my petitions to your honorable board.

The vagabond enemy, not being satisfied with the plunder they carried off from Port Talbot on the 16th August, returned in greater force about the middle of September, when they burnt my mills and others buildings, destroyed all my flour and killed my sheep, &c. Poor Burwell's house and barn were likewise sacrificed; thence the enemy extended their violence down my road 15 miles. Enclosed is my statement, which I trust may call forth the bounty of the society, as nothing can exceed the deplorable condition of that part of the Province. My mills having been burnt, the farmers will be obliged to take their grain at least 120 miles to have it ground; the expenses attending such transport in these hard times will be heavy indeed. I am considerably alarmed for the fate of the sum the society granted me before, as we have this moment learned that 10 boats have been captured by the enemy near the Bay of Quinte and Mr. Hatt, who was kind enough to procure the clothing at Montreal for my poor people, is of opinion that my things were in the above boats. Mr. Ralph, who is going to York, will take charge of any assistance which the society may please to afford.

The arrival of our fleet at Fort George, I hope, will ensure quiet to us at least for the winter.

The European and American accounts hold out no great expectations of a speedy conclusion to the war.

God preserve us from greater evils that we have already suffered.

Believe me, my dear sir, always most sincerely yours,

THOMAS TALBOT.

The Honble Mr. Chief Justice Scott.

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The accumulated distresses of the inhabitants of the County of Middlesex since the third of September last compels Colonel Talbot again to implore the benevolent aid of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society* towards the relief of the undermentioned persons, who have been robbed by their ferocious enemy, who returned to Port Talbot about the 20th of September, burnt the mills and other buildings belonging to Colonel Talbot, together with the houses and barns of Col. Burwell and several others, thence extending their depredations sixteen miles down Talbot Road, taking all the horses

and pillaging the houses of every article of clothing, and destroying such furniture as could not be conveniently carried off.

*List of the sufferers furnished by Colonel Talbot :*

1. Alexander Ross, a wife and five children.
2. Neil McNeal, a wife, two children.
3. Timothy Neal, single.
4. Richard Barrett, single.
5. Jeremiah Cranmer, mother 70 years of age.
6. Henry Ramey, single.
7. William Shaff, single.
8. David Mandeville, a wife and seven children.
9. David Rapelje, a wife and nine children.
10. Carret Smith, a wife and four children.
11. Thomas Curtis, a wife and six children.
12. Archibald McNeal, a wife and two children.
13. George Lawrence, a wife and three children.
14. William Lee, a wife and eight children.
15. George Clarke, a wife and four children.
16. Benjamin Wilson, a wife.
17. John Davis, a wife and four children.
18. Joseph Mann, a wife and five children.
19. William Toles, a wife and seven children.
20. Hosker Lee.
21. Jeremiah Rapelje.
22. George Rapelje.
23. Justus Wilcox, a wife and six children.
24. James Neville, a wife and two children.
25. Margaret Pease, a widow and four children.
26. John Brae, a wife and three children.
27. Finlay Grant, single.

THOMAS TALBOT.

Ancaster. 24th October. 1814.

*(From the report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada, Montreal. Printed by William Gray, 1817.)*

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**Lieut.-Col. Wm. Smelt to Lieut.-Col. Harvey.**

VANDERLIP'S, 5 o'clock p. m.  
6th November.

SIR,—I have the honour to report that I am this far on my road to the Grand River, and if the men are sufficiently recovered shall proceed on this evening, so as to arrive at that place at daylight in the morning. The enemy are encamped there, and some

firing has taken place across. Major Muir has destroyed the scow, which will prevent them crossing any otherwise than swimming their horses, and as most of the Indians are there I trust they will not attempt it. By all accounts the enemy's force does not exceed one thousand, who are chiefly composed of Kentucky riflemen, mounted. Every Indian has turned out most handsomely, and the militia, with the exception of the 2d York. I have with me two hundred of the 103d, and I hope to have Lieut. Charlton up to-morrow morning with the two six-pounders. I sha<sup>ll</sup> forward you every information, but if the enemy receive a check at the Grand River I don't think they will attempt to come further, and I have no doubt if the guns arrive in time that this will be the case. Whether Major Muir has acted with judgment in destroying the scow, I cannot judge.

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**Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt to Major-General De Watteville.**

FOWLER'S, 11 o'clock at night, November, 7th.

SIR,-- I have the honor to forward the enclosed letter, by which it appears that the enemy are again advancing towards the Grand River. I think it not improbable that they may attempt to cross by swimming their horses. I shall proceed at daylight in the morning, as it is impossible to go through the swamp in the night. Malcolm's Mill is twelve miles on the other side of the Grand River. They are, however, at different places. By returning to the Grand River they may have received or heard of reinforcements from Long Point, at which place they have said they expected them. I shall forward all information as quick as possible. The Americans, I understand, might very well land three miles down the river, by which means they might get into our rear.

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**Major-General De Watteville to Lieut.-Colonel John Harvey.**

BURLINGTON, November 8th, 1814.

Half-past 6 o'clock a. m.

MY DEAR SIR, -Understanding on my arrival here that General Drummond is at York, I lose no time in enclosing you a report, received this morning from Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, and a letter from that officer to Colonel Parry. The reports respecting the enemy's movements appear to be rather contradictory. I shall proceed immediately to Ancaster and act according to circumstances. If the enemy should be actually on his retreat, which I

think very probable, he having destroyed every mill, I suppose General Drummond would approve of my returning without delay to the Falls.

—  
**Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt to —**

GRAND RIVER SWAMP,  
 November 8th, 1814.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter. The report of the enemy having returned to Malcolm's Mills was unfounded. They are still going off towards Long Point, and I have no doubt but they are going back by Talbot's Road. However, I shall be able to give correct information in the course of the night. Captain Chambers of the Quartermaster-General's department is gone over the river with some of the dragoons and Indians, and I am certain to have the very best intelligence, which I will forward immediately as I receive it. The last I heard of the enemy was that they were near Turkey Point. If this information was correct it was my intention to have returned to Burlington to-morrow morning for the purpose of embarking for Lower Canada, should the 37th have arrived, as we have only 180 effective men here, and the greatest part of them convalescent. Our six-pounder has arrived here, but which I shall retain here till I hear from Captain Chambers, as the road between this and the Grand River is a swamp nearly the whole way. The enemy's force we have ascertained to be, as near as possible, 1500 mounted riflemen. I think could the Indians be persuaded to follow them a number might fall into our hands, but they do not seem at all inclined.

The number of men I have with me is about 200 regulars, including 27 of the 19th Light Dragoons, about 400 Indians and perhaps 150 militia, but I am sorry to say the Indians are falling back very fast. Their great complaint is want of shoes. The enemy burn everything they fall in with, which is a very great detriment to this part of the country. They do not seem to commit other depredations. I dare say the Indians would go if they had regular troops with them, but as the enemy have such a start and are all mounted, no regulars could possibly overtake them unless they halt on the road, which they will not do, General Izard having left Fort Erie, to which place they were proceeding.

**Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.**

BUFFALO, November 8th, 1814.

SIR,—On the 3rd instant I had notice that the British fleet was again at the mouth of the Niagara, and landing troops and stores. My informant stated several pieces of heavy ordnance and fifteen hundred men to have passed that morning from Fort George to Queenston Heights. The enemy, however, advanced no force beyond Frenchman's Creek. All appeared quiet in the vicinity of this position. On the morning of the 5th, everything having been removed from Fort Erie and the preparations for its destruction having been completed, the small remaining garrison was embarked, and soon after the bastions were blown up; it is thoroughly demolished. The enemy was not aware of what had been done for more than twenty-four hours afterwards. The whole of my force is now in the vicinity of this village, engaged in constructing huts. The scarcity of forage has induced me to send the dragoons to the Genesee country, where they will be kept better and at one-fourth of the expense. I have despatched Lieutenant-Colonel Bail and an officer of the Quartermaster-General's department to select the ground for their winter quarters, and in the meantime they have moved to Williamsville, where there is provender sufficient for a few days. The construction of the hospital at the latter place has been delayed by the jealousy and quarrels between the surgeons and the Quartermaster's department of General Brown's division. It is far from ready for the reception of the sick and wounded, who remain principally under tents. By the advice of Dr. Bull, senior surgeon, I have directed such as could bear the transportation to be conveyed to Greenbush in waggons; among these will be the wounded British prisoners. But the remaining number is distressingly great; there are yet nearly two thousand men on the surgeon's list.

No information has reached me from the westward since my last to you, of the 2d instant. If the flotilla were here, I would immediately detach a thousand or twelve hundred men to Detroit—by land it is now impracticable. The dispersion of troops assembled with so much trouble and difficulty would be an unpleasant measure, but I know no other means of protecting Detroit from an attack which seems to me not an improbable event. The enemy will, I believe, notwithstanding their now very superior numbers, be disposed to let this part of the frontier alone. With such a fair opportunity as was repeatedly offered them on the Canada side of the strait, I doubt their inclination to resume the offensive, especially in this ruined country. There is, however, a greater probability

of their sending a force to the westward. On the subject of the preparations by General McArthur and Governor Cass, I am entirely destitute of information.

The troops under my immediate command, being now engaged in constructing their huts and the final disposition being made of the various detachments and garrisons, there will remain in a short time nothing on this frontier to require my presence. The attention of the government will probably be immediately directed to the operations of the next campaign. If it is the intention of the President to honor me with the command of the 9th District during the next season, it will be all important that I should employ the winter months in making such arrangements as will enable us to take the field and seize some strong positions early in the spring. Much is to be done in every department of the army. System must be enforced in the various branches of ordnance, clothing, quartermaster's, surgeon's, and pay departments. Incalculable expense is produced by the present disorganized state of things. The staff of the army is on a very unpleasant footing. No regular course of discipline and instruction is followed by the troops. Much may be done in the next five or six months, but it must be quickly commenced to be of permanent advantage. I could, at Philadelphia, communicate more rapidly with the Department of War and there superintend the various supplies required for the frontier. At the same time I should have an opportunity of paying some attention to my health, which has suffered considerably by the two last campaigns, and the restoration of which I can scarcely hope for if I remained the winter in this inclement climate.

*(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)*

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**Captain Peter L. Chambers, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General, to Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt.**

7 o'clock a. m.,

SOVERAIN'S MILLS, 9th Nov., 1814.

MY DEAR SIR,—Owing to the destruction of the scow at Grand River, the party did not get across until late, and arrived at Major Ree's last night after dark. I then forwarded my advance to this place. An American spy was here last night and attempted to steal a horse, but was pursued. He left the horse and escaped. The enemy have plundered the country in a most shameful manner, stole the horses, clothing, &c., and burned all the mills as far as this.

Sergeant Collins of the 41st Regiment and Private Barto of the militia were killed and mutilated in a most horrible manner. Barto was actually butchered (no appearance of having been shot) both scalped and cut shockingly. I shall proceed as far as I can with safety, and let you know if anything occurs worth communicating.

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**Major-General Louis De Watteville to Lieut.-Colonel Harvey.**

ANCASTER, November 9th, 1814.

MY DEAR SIR,—On my arrival here yesterday about 12 o'clock, I wrote immediately to Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, requesting him to forward to me any further intelligence he might have received of the enemy's movements, and meeting at this place Lieutenant Kemble of the Glengarry Light Infantry, I detained him with the representation that I should be able this morning to send more positive information. By the enclosed letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt arrived last night, there appears to be little doubt but the enemy are on their way back, after having destroyed all the mills in that part of the country, which has probably been one (the principal) object of their expedition. Captain Chambers' more correct intelligence expected by Colonel Smelt has not yet arrived, but thinking that General Drummond may be waiting for Lieut. Kemble's return, I do not deem it proper to detain that officer any longer. The moment I receive Captain Chambers' report I shall not fail to forward it to you, despatching at the same time an express to Fort George to inform Major-General Stovin of the situation of affairs in this part of the country.

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**Major-General Louis De Watteville to Lieut.-Colonel Harvey.**

ANCASTER, 10th November, 1814.

SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 8th despatched from York, (which I received last night,) I have the honor to acquaint you that by the best information I have been able to collect, and which may be *perfectly relied on*, the enemy, consisting of about 1,500 men, all mounted, are by this time a long way from Long Point on their march back. On the 6th they were on the Grand River, but without making any serious attempt to cross it, it appears that they commenced their retreat on the evening of that

day, burning every mill they fell in with, with the exception of two mentioned in the enclosed note from Colonel Talbot. The destruction of the mills and the means of subsistence appears to have been one of the principal objects of their expedition. Captain Chambers, with the party of dragoons under Captain Eustace, crossed the Grand River on the evening of the 8th, and has since sent in the enclosed report. I expect every moment to hear of his having arrived at Long Point.

The right wing of the 37th Regiment has arrived at Burlington only yesterday in the afternoon, and the other wing is expected at that place in the course of this day. Agreeable to the directions contained in your letter, one wing of the 37th, with two six-pounders, will march to-morrow morning from Burlington to Long Point, (provided the commissary can make the necessary arrangements for the subsistence of the troops,) which perhaps may be found difficult in consequence of the depredations committed by the enemy. I hope, however, that the two mills that fortunately have been spared will remove the difficulties.

The other wing of the 37th will remain at Burlington, the enemy having retreated so far that no apprehensions of an attack are to be entertained. The 103d Regiment are marching to-day from the Grand River swamp to the outlet, where, according to information received by Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, two brigades have arrived to convey them to Kingston. I have sent orders to the detachment of the 19th Dragoons under Captain Eustace to take up their quarters at Long Point. Major Lisle, with the few men and serviceable horses he has with him, remains at this place, and I believe it would be well to order the detachment which was on the Black Creek to join him at Ancaster if they are not wanted on the Niagara Frontier. I have mentioned this to General Stovin.

I hope you have received my despatch of the 6th, and the letter of yesterday transmitted by Lieutenant Kemble of the Glengarry Light Infantry.

**Captain S. Romilly, R. E., to Sir Gordon Drummond.**

ENGINEER OFFICE,  
CHIPPAWA, 10th November, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor of reporting the state in which the enemy left Fort Erie.

It appears that they had constructed a work beyond the old fort, consisting of two bastions, (1 and 2 in the sketch,) the curtain was formed of high palisades and a log building behind them, loop-holed; they were joined to the work by two other curtains formed of earth. I think the scarp must have been 16 or 18 feet. Before the old palisades a small fleche has been made, two lines run from the fort to the lake, the one facing Black Rock is well flanked with a double abattis in front, the other with only a single one.

The line from the fort to Snake Hill is very weak, great part has been destroyed as well as a second line marked in the sketch. There appears to have been an intention of forming a square redoubt in the centre from the remains of the two faces.

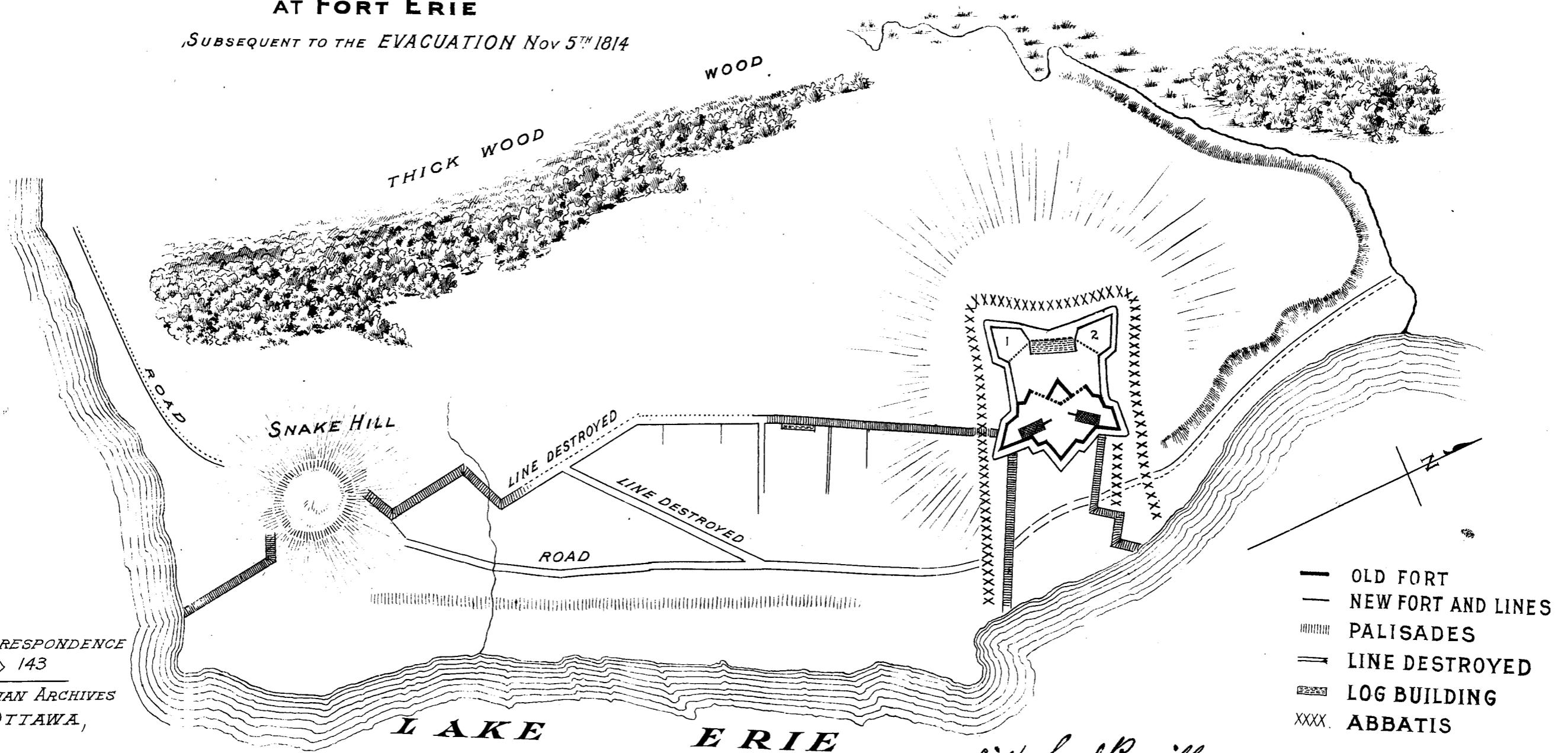
Snake Hill is now a mound of sand, so completely have they blown up the works.

The two new bastions are also destroyed by mines; the palisades at the gorges remain. The log building has been burnt, and nothing but the shells of the stone barracks are left, otherwise the old fort has not been much hurt.

If the position is occupied, nothing but a regular work capable of standing a siege should be constructed.

# MAP SHOWING THE INTRENCHMENTS AT FORT ERIE

SUBSEQUENT TO THE EVACUATION NOV 5<sup>TH</sup> 1814



- OLD FORT
- NEW FORT AND LINES
- ||||| PALISADES
- LINE DESTROYED
- ▨ LOG BUILDING
- XXX. ABBATIS

*Sgt/ Saml Romilly  
Capt R. Hughes.*

MILITARY CORRESPONDENCE  
143  
CANADIAN ARCHIVES  
OTTAWA,

**Major Chambers, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General, to  
Major-General De Watteville.**

LONG POINT, 10th November, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that the enemy have retreated towards Amherstburg by Colonel Talbot's road with the greatest precipitancy, leaving a number of horses, etc., behind them. The avowed object of the enemy was to destroy all the mills in the country, (so as to prevent our advancing this winter to Amherstburg,) which I happily defeated by the rapidity of my advance. I did not give them time to complete the work of destruction, three mills being left. Had we not arrived in time the whole of this valuable settlement must have fallen a prey to famine this winter. At present not a single barrel of flour is to be purchased in the district. The enemy have plundered the inhabitants most disgracefully and stole every horse they could find.

To Captain Eustace and Lieutenant Horton, 19th Light Dragoons, I am under great obligations for the spirit and unwearied activity they have displayed on this occasion. The conduct of the troops was excellent. I beg leave to mention that Major Salmon of the 2nd Norfolk Militia was of great service to me and very active.

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**Lieutenant-General Drummond to Captain Freer, Military  
Secretary.**

KINGSTON, November 12th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit sundry letters enclosed by Major-General De Watteville received here last night, relative to the proceedings on the Grand River. I look for further reports with anxiety, which I will not fail to forward without delay, for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces immediately on receipt of them.

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**Lieutenant-General Drummond to Sir James Lucas Yeo.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,

13th November, 1814.

SIR,—Having just received an account of the destruction by the enemy of all the resources (and the mills) of the country to the westward of the Grand River, from which we had calculated upon receiving the principal part of the supplies destined to support the regular troops and Indians during the approaching winter, it

becomes absolutely necessary that the means of feeding them should be forwarded from hence before the close of the navigation. I cannot exactly state the quantity of transport which will be required, but I can, without hesitation, say that nothing less than the aid of the whole squadron will be sufficient to relieve the urgent wants of the right division of the army. In the event of your agreeing to afford me the assistance which I feel it my duty to require, I should be induced to avail myself of the opportunity of proceeding myself to Burlington in order to ascertain the extent of the mischief which the unfortunate want of troops at that period has enabled the enemy to do us, and to make such arrangements as may appear to be called for.

It will be necessary, in my opinion, that the *smaller vessels* should land the stores they may take on board, at Burlington Beach.

In anticipation of your assent to a proposition which is so immediately connected with the preservation of an important part of the province, and which must be absolutely evacuated by the troops unless I am provided with the means of conveying relief to them, I have directed the Deputy Commissary-General to be prepared to put on board the ships every barrel of provisions which can possibly be spared from the stores of this depot.

Under the unfortunate circumstances which have occurred, it would perhaps be advisable to change the plan relative to the crew of the *Niagara*, which would only add to the difficulties which we shall, I fear, experience in feeding any at Turkey Point. At all events, for the present, I would advise only a few artificers and shipwrights being sent there. The crew of the ship can be sent up in the winter.

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**Commodore Sir James Yeo to Sir Gordon Drummond.**

His Majesty's Ship *St. Laurence*,  
AT KINGSTON, the 14th November, 1814.

SIR,—I have had the honor of your letter of yesterday's date, acquainting me of the destruction by the enemy of all the mills to the westward of the Grand River, and requiring the aid of the whole squadron to relieve the urgent want of the right division of the army.

I have at all times, from motives of duty and inclination, been ready and solicitous to co-operate and assist the army to the utmost of my means and ability, and therefore on the present occasion feel the more distressed that it is not in my power to comply with your

request without exposing His Majesty's squadron to the most imminent danger, such as no officer would be warranted in risking. I have consulted Messrs. Richardson, the pilots, and others best acquainted with the lake, who give it as their opinion that it would be the height of imprudence and hazardous in the extreme to take the large ships on the lake at this advanced season of the year. That it has ever been the custom to lay up the vessels on the 15th of this month, and though small vessels have been on the lake as late as the 1st of December, they have narrowly escaped being lost; that the snow-storms generally last twenty-four hours with great violence, and that there is no anchorage for large ships between this and York. I do not hesitate in declaring that, if the squadron were to be caught on the lake in such a storm, it is my opinion their loss would be inevitable. It is also to be considered that were the squadron at this moment ready to sail, the service could not be accomplished under ten days at least, from its being impossible to approach the Niagara River within six miles, Burlington is out of the question, and York, which is the only place the squadron can communicate with, the ships are obliged to lay at the distance of three miles, and it is only in moderate weather that boats could land the provisions. It would therefore be December before the squadron could return, and then could not get into port if the wind was easterly.

The *Montreal* is reported by the builder as being unfit for service without undergoing repairs, and I can assure you, sir, I am not without my apprehensions for the safety of the two brigs on the lake.

I shall attend to your suggestions as to the crew of the *Niagara*.

Should you determine on going up and think proper to accept of the *Niagara*, I will order Captain Collier to be prepared to receive you on board.

**Lieut.-General Drummond to Captain Noah Freer.**

KINGSTON, 14th November, 1814.

SIR,—In consequence of the devastation committed by the enemy in the neighbourhood of Grand River and Turkey Point, I considered it requisite to address the letter, of which the accompanying is a copy, to Commodore Sir James Yeo, stating the necessity of his transporting a supply of provisions for the right division from hence before the close of the navigation. A copy also of the Commodore's reply I have the honor to enclose for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces.

Independent of the want of provisions, which now must necessarily be the result of the destruction of the mills in that vicinity, the proposed naval establishment on Lake Erie must be, I understand, for the present suspended. The Commodore and the Commissioner, Sir Robert Hall, having called upon me to state that they have not a sufficiency of guns or stores to complete a vessel of the description and class they had intended to build at that place, I have, notwithstanding, directed Captain Payne to proceed thither with the detachment of Sappers and Miners, and Major Cockburn with the company of Canadian Fencibles, for the purpose of executing the military part of the plan, as far as erecting cover and some defences for the troops and naval artificers, a small body of whom are to be employed cutting and preparing timber to be in readiness for dockyard use when required.

I have the honor to transmit a letter from Major-General De Watteville covering a report of the enemy's movements towards Turkey Point, which I did not consider of sufficient importance to despatch by an extra express—the regular express day from hence being to-morrow.

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**Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Talbot to Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Smelt, 103d Regiment.**

MY DEAR COLONEL,—I have this instant received intelligence from a man from Long Point that the enemy left Culver's yesterday morning about 9 o'clock and took the direction of Talbot Road, without completing the work of destruction; that is, they have spared Tisdale's and Backhouse's mills, through the entreaties of *American Marshal Long*, who had remained at Long Point to deliver over the British prisoners. The enemy encamped last night at Browne's, ten miles from Culver's. To-morrow, I should presume, you may move off for Burlington. I will have the pleasure of seeing you early to-morrow morning.

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS TALBOT.

Bunnell's, Wednesday evening, 8 o'clock.

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**Lieutenant-General Drummond to Captain Freer.**

KINGSTON, Nov. 15th, 1814.

SIR,—Since my letter of yesterday, enclosing Major-General De Watteville's report of the 9th instant, I have received Captain Chambers' letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Smelt, and a note from Colonel Talbot, also to that officer, enclosed in the despatch, of which

the accompanying is a copy, from the Major-General, on the 10th instant.

**Lieutenant-General Drummond to Captain Freer.**

KINGSTON, Nov. 17th, 1814.

SIR,—Enclosed is a copy of a report from Captain Chambers, Deputy-Assistant Quarter-Master-General, transmitted to me by Major-General De Watteville.

The Major-General upon faith of the enemy's retreat had set out for Chippawa, but I doubt not has by this time returned to Ancaster in consequence of intelligence which has overtaken him on the road, that a body of the enemy had crossed the River Thames at Delaware and are advancing towards Oxford. This intelligence was brought by a Huron Indian, but how far it is to be relied on is yet to be known.

Five companies of the 37th Regt., with two six-pounders complete, had marched for Turkey Point.

**Major-General Izard to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTERS,

BUFFALO, November 17th, 1814.

SIR,—Nothing of interest has occurred here since my last Rumors from several quarters lead to a belief that Brigadier-General McArthur has made an incursion into the Upper Province. My only information on the subject is derived from persons lately from the other side, who have been permitted to join their families in this part of the country. When, where, and with what force, I am entirely ignorant. The express I sent to him on the 1st instant has not returned.

A letter from Captain Sinclair, U. S. Navy, dated Erie Roads, 7th November, reached me on the 13th, at night. He applies for marines and for a guard for naval stores. I was glad to know where to direct to him, and despatched an express informing him that "if he deems it practicable and consonant to his instructions, a detachment of troops should be embarked for Detroit as soon as he should be ready to take them on board." The roads must be very bad or the messenger would have returned ere this. Brigadier-General Smith on his urgent request had leave of absence on our recrossing the strait. He had been absent several years from his family, and is gone to Tennessee.

I had no particular reasons for wishing to detain him.

Brigadier-General Bissell is in ill-health, and presses for a similar indulgence. I wrote on this subject to the war office on the 8th instant. To obviate the inconvenience of leaving this division without general officers, I have ordered Brigadier-General Winder hither from Sackett's Harbour. I expect him about the end of this month.

*(From Izard's Official Correspondence.)*

**Brigadier-General McArthur to the Secretary of War.**

HEADQUARTER'S DETROIT,

18th November, 1814.

SIR,—I have the satisfaction to report to you the safe return of the mounted troops to this place, on the 17<sup>th</sup> instant.

In a former communication I had the honour to inform you that the mounted volunteers were marched in this direction in consequence of the regular troops having been withdrawn, and the apprehensions that were entertained for the safety of this territory, of which I was advised by His Excellency Governor Cass.

The militia detached from Kentucky and Ohio having arrived, they were assigned for the immediate protection of this place. It was then deemed expedient, from the ardor and species of the force, that the mounted volunteers should be actively employed in the territory of the enemy, with a view to destroy their resources and ultimately to paralyze any efforts which might be made against this place during the winter.

The valuable mills at the head of Lake Ontario and in the vicinity of Grand River furnished large supplies to the army in the peninsula. Their destruction was desirable. To that effect the mounted troops, consisting of six hundred volunteers, fifty United States Rangers, and seventy Indians, were put in motion on the 22d of October, to pursue the route along the western shore of Lake St. Clair, and pass into the enemy's territory near the mouth of that river.

The real object of the expedition was masked by the general impression that it was destined against the Indian towns at Sagouina. To favour that idea boats were prepared for the reception of artillery, to be conveyed through Lake St. Clair, up that river into Lake Huron, and to co-operate with the mounted troops in the attack. The boats were, however, employed in the transportation of the troops and horses across the River St. Clair and Bear Creek, which empties into Baldoon river. This movement was

absolutely necessary to secure that secrecy to the expedition which could alone render it successful. All military movements in this direction are rapidly communicated to the enemy from Sandwich and this place. It was therefore deemed improper to pass the troops across this river, but to proceed over the River St. Clair down to the Scotch settlement on the Kaldoon, up Bear Creek about 30 miles and across to the Moravian Towns a few miles above the lower settlement on the Thames, where the detachment arrived on 30th of October.

We were very fortunate at this place in taking a sergeant in the British service who was proceeding to Burlington with the information that the detachment had passed into the enemy's territory. The capture of this sergeant at the commencement of the "Long Woods" between the Moravian Towns and Delaware, enabled us to reach the latter place undiscovered. On our approach, the rangers were detached to move across the Thames below the settlement, pass in rear of it and guard the different roads leading into the interior, whilst the troops were engaged in swimming their horses and transporting their baggage on rafts.

We were thus enabled to arrive at the town of Oxford, one hundred and fifty miles distant from Detroit, before the inhabitants knew that a force was approaching. They were promised protection to their persons and property upon condition that they remained peaceably at their respective homes, otherwise they were assured that their property should be destroyed.

However, notwithstanding this injunction and the sacred obligations of a previous parole, two of the inhabitants escaped to Burford with the intelligence of our arrival. Their property, consisting of two dwelling houses, two barns, and one shop, were instantly consumed.

On the succeeding day, the fifth instant, the detachment proceeded to Burford, where we were informed that the militia had been embodied about ten days previously to our arrival, in consequence of reports received from Sandwich that an expedition was expected to move from Detroit against Burlington.

A few hours before our arrival, the enemy retreated from Burford to Malcolm's Mills, ten miles distant on the road leading from Dover to Burlington, where they were joined by the militia from Long Point.

It was my intention to cross Grand River as soon as possible without regarding the militia collected at Malcolm's mills, and attack Burlington. To my great mortification, upon our arrival at the river we found it high and rapid from the late excessive rains, and learned that General Brown had recrossed the Niagara, leaving

only a strong garrison in Fort Erie. No means were presented even of passing the river on rafts, and, had it been effected, upon our return the militia, contemptible as they were, might have been encouraged to attack when a rapid river divided us. Major Muir, with about fifty Indians and fifty militia, was preparing to contest the passage. A battery was also erecting, as was understood, for three pieces of artillery, distant twelve miles on the road from Burlington.

These considerations presented serious objections to any attempts to pass the river; it was also due to the past sufferings and the future safety of the gallant detachment under my command that a direction should be given to its movements calculated to afford compensation for the former and secure the latter.

It was therefore determined upon to attack and defeat or disperse the militia at Malcolm's mills, move down the Long Point road through the Grand River settlement, destroy the valuable mills in that quarter, and then return to our territory, either by a movement across Grand River at the mouth to Fort Erie or along Talbot's street to the Thames.

To that effect a detachment was directed to remain and engage the attention of the enemy whilst the principal force should be withdrawn and marched to Malcolm's mills. We found the enemy, consisting of four or five hundred militia with a few Indians, fortified on commanding ground beyond a creek, deep and difficult of passage except at a bridge immediately in front of their works, which had been destroyed. Arrangements were made for a joint attack on the front and rear. The Ohio troops with the advance guard and Indians were accordingly thrown across the creek under cover of a thick wood, to approach the enemy in the rear, while the Kentucky troops were to attack in front as soon as the attention of the enemy was engaged by the attack in the rear. The enemy would have been completely surprised and captured had not an unfortunate yell by our Indians announced the approach of the detachment destined to attack their rear. They were, however, defeated and dispersed with the loss in the skirmishes on that day of one captain and seventeen privates killed, nine privates wounded, and three captains, five subalterns and one hundred and three privates made prisoners, whilst our loss was only one killed and six wounded. Early on the 7th instant, the enemy were pursued on the road to Dover, many made prisoners and five valuable mills destroyed.

Apprehensive that the troops could not be supplied on the route to Fort Erie, and that difficulties would occur in the passage of the Grand River, together with the uncertainty which existed

as to the position of our army below, I was induced on the 8th instant to commence my return to this place by the way of Talbot street and the Thames, which was happily effected on the 17th instant.

In this excursion the resources of the enemy have been essentially impaired, and the destruction of the valuable mills in the vicinity of Grand Kiver employed in the support of the army in the peninsula, together with the consumption of the forage and provisions necessary for the troops, has added to the barrier heretofore interposed by an extensive and swampy frontier against any attempts which may be made this winter in the direction of Detroit.

With the exception of nine thousand rations and eight hundred bushels of forage, the detachment subsisted entirely on the enemy. Of private property no more was destroyed than was absolutely necessary for the support of the troops, for which regular payments or receipts were given. It is much to be regretted that there were some partial abuses produced by the unfortunate examples presented by the Indians, whose customs in war impel them to plunder after victory; but for this blemish there was some excuse in their correct and gallant conduct before and during battle. It is also gratifying to know that they were forgetful of the atrocious deeds committed by the Indians in the service of the enemy; neither the innocent or disarmed have been massacred or molested.

The honourable deportment of the Chiefs Lewis, Wolfe, and Civil John was truly animating to all the troops.

It was essential to the progress of the expedition the horses of individuals should be taken to supply the place of those that were disabled and lost on the march. In all cases receipts were given.

The Michigan militia were invited to accompany us on the expedition; not more than twenty accepted it—of those six deserted near Delaware and the remainder were permitted to return on the next day. Lieutenant Rutland of Captain Audrain's company of rangers from Detroit was distinguished for zeal and intrepidity.

The patriotic volunteers under my command have just claims on the gratitude of their country when it is recollected that they tendered their services with no other assurance than the approbation which always attends disinterested sacrifices; that they have performed much duty at an inclement season through an extensive and swampy district frequently intersected with deep and rapid rivers; that they have penetrated two hundred miles into the enemy's territory, destroyed two hundred stand of arms, together with five of their most valuable mills, paroled or dispersed the

greater part of the efficient militia of that part of Upper Canada west of the Grand River, and the whole detachment has returned to this place with the exception of one killed.

The ardor which the troops always evinced when they expected to meet the enemy was not more conspicuous or praiseworthy than the cheerfulness with which they conformed to the rules of military propriety. The officers and privates, with a very few exceptions, merited my warmest approbation.

I was much indebted to the zeal and intelligence displayed on all occasions by Major Dudley, commanding the Kentucky battalion, and was ably assisted by the zeal and assiduity of Doctor Turner of the Seventeenth Infantry. Captain Bradford of the Nineteenth Infantry—my Brigade-Major—already distinguished at Fort Meigs and Tehoopcaw, is entitled to my sincere thanks for his exertions under every difficulty, and I have the support of the troops in assuring you, sir, that to the military talents, activity, and intelligence of Major Todd, who acted as my Adjutant-General, much of the fortunate progress and issue of the expedition is attributable, and I cheerfully embrace this opportunity to acknowledge the important services he has rendered me.

**Lieutenant-Colonel James to Colonel Harvey.**

BURLINGTON, 21st November, 1814.

SIR,—I do myself the honor to inform you that Captain Wm. Caldwell arrived here yesterday, bringing with him a man named Bazely from Oxford, where he took him prisoner, and found in his pocket copy of the enclosed order, issued by General McArthur and signed by the Ac.-Q.-Mr.-General of the American force. The man is now in the guard room here, which has been allotted for civil prisoners.

Captain Caldwell went as far as Delaware, where he learned that the enemy had re-crossed to Detroit, having embarked at the extremity of the Thames. Their number did not exceed 1,000; that they advanced upon Oxford quietly but with rapidity, leaving their tired horses and taking fresh ones wherever they found them. Captain Caldwell states the prisoner Bazely to have given information to the enemy which was the cause of burning the houses of several loyal subjects in the vicinity of Oxford. He adds his belief that the enemy only destroyed and carried off 250 horses, 200 sheep, 100 oxen and 100 hundred hogs. Three mounted British subjects with six Indians have gone as far as the Detroit, from which place they may be expected in the course of four days. I

beg leave to acquaint you that Captain Caldwell has stated a great inconvenience, which has constantly attended his reconnoitring parties, particularly in the latter ones, by having been obliged to pay for the hire of horses and food for his party. He requested me to state how advantageous it would be to be permitted to press horses, or in both instances to be allowed payment.

I forward a letter from Major Tilt, and fear the men will be very badly off for stores, which can with great ease be sent from York before the conveyance by water closes if an order to that effect is speedily forwarded.

I was misinformed when I stated in a former letter that *three* mills remained, which information I obtained from Captain Chambers.

I have great pleasure to report, on the authority of Colonel Caldwell, who has had a man in from beyond Delaware, that there is not an open American enemy in the British possessions, and which information I am confident may be relied on.

**List of Persons of the County of Norfolk Plundered by the  
American Army under General McArthur, in the Month  
of November, 1814.**

1. James Crane.....	60	10	20
2. James Brown.....	36	0	0
3. Jacob Byard.....	31	15	0
4. Jacob Crane.....	35	2	6
5. Samuel Brown.....	39	15	0
6. Noah Fairchild.....	50	5	0
7. Joseph Boughner.....	7	0	0
8. Thomas Shippey.....	6	6	0
9. Philip Wilson.....	15	19	5
10. Martin Boughner.....	12	0	0
11. Ephraim C. Mitchell.....	27	2	6
12. James.....	66	16	0
13. Aaron Collver.....	31	5	0
14. John Collver.....	6	15	0
15. John Davis.....	1000	0	0
16. Morris and Leonard Sovereign.....	1750	0	0
17. Joseph Wooley.....	44	0	0
18. Levi Douglas.....	20	0	0
19. William Bird.....	24	0	0
20. E. Woodruff.....	20	0	0

21.	E. Woodruff and A. Collver .....	1700	0	0
22.	Leonard Sovereign.....	149	0	0
23.	John Robins.....	213	0	0
24.	Shearman Hyde.....	25	0	0

(*Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 387-8.*)

### Report of a Meeting of the Loyal and Patriotic Society.

At a meeting of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society*, holden at the Chief Justice's on Friday, the 2nd December, 1814:

#### PRESENT.

The Honble Thos. Scott, Chief Justice, President.

The Honble Wm. D. Powell, Vice-President.

#### *Directors:—*

The Honble Wm. Campbell.

The Revd. Doctor Strachan.

John B. Robinson, Esqr.

D. Cameron, Esqr.

Wm. Allan, Esqr.

Alexander Wood, Esqr., Secretary.

Freedom Burdick and George Nichol, both of Oxford, appeared recommended by Henry Bostwick, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Wm. Brown, Major of the Oxford Militia. Colonel Bostwick states in his recommendation that George Nichol gave notice of General McArthur's approach, and in consequence the Americans burnt his house and barn and destroyed everything he had except a few head of cattle.

Freedom Burdick saved his house and cattle but lost everything else. Both appeared to be steady, loyal subjects and deserving the kind consideration of the board.

*Resolved,*—That the sum of two hundred dollars be granted to George Nichol.

That the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars be granted to Freedom Burdick; the reason for giving fifty dollars more to George Nichol than to Freedom Burdick arises from his having his barn burnt.

The society having received fifty medals from Europe, the president is requested to address a letter to the patron of the society, soliciting His Honor's aid in the disposal of them, by obtaining a report from officers commanding corps employed during

the war of such individuals in the respective corps as may be considered entitled to the distinction of a medal referring to the particular circumstances.

ALEXANDER WOOD,  
Secretary.

THOMAS SCOTT,  
President.

(From the Report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society, Montreal, 1817, pp. 147-9.)

**Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

KINGSTON, November 24th, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's two letters of the 18th inst.

As soon as I have received Colonel Talbot's communication relative to the murder of Captain Francis of the militia, I will lose no time in transmitting the statement to Your Excellency.

I have forwarded a copy of that directing the retaliatory measures to be pursued against the enemy to Major-General Stovin, commanding the right division.

By last accounts from Burlington, it would appear that the enemy have altogether retired to Detroit and Major-General De Watteville had returned to Chippawa.

The *Niagara* is now alongside the *Princess Charlotte*, taking in the guns, anchor, and stores for the vessel to be built at Penetanguishene.

The *Charwell* will proceed with a small supply of provisions and stores to the head of the lake. The *Star* unluckily sprung her masts in a gale and cannot venture upon the lake again this season. This is an extremely unfortunate circumstance, as there are still many men of the 41st, 100th, and 103d Regiments to be brought down.

**General Order.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

MONTREAL, December 1st, 1814.

In reviewing the operations of the campaign on the Niagara frontier under the immediate direction of Lieutenant-General Drummond, from its commencement to its close, the Commander of the Forces is called on most highly to commend and notice the spirit of enterprise with which every opportunity to annoy or repulse the enemy has been seized, and the avidity with which they were followed up as far as was prudent.

His Excellency has marked with admiration the patient but determined endurance of harassing fatigue, aggravated by circumstances of particular privation, being exposed without shelter to an almost incessant deluge, which left not the tired soldier a single spot of dry ground to rest his wearied limbs; but it is more particularly in the close of the campaign that the sterling qualities of the British soldier were conspicuously displayed. In the approaching prospect of a general action all hardships and past sufferings were forgotten, the superior force of the enemy despised, and confident in the result which tried courage and discipline must command, the threatened attack was invited with that intrepid, undaunted countenance that the enemy shrunk from and retreated to his own shore, sacrificing the arduous labours of many months, and bringing the campaign to a conclusion highly honourable to the Right Division.

Thus the enemy's annual attempt to invade the Upper Province has once more recoiled on him with increased dishonour in proportion to his means. By the command of both lakes, Ontario and Erie, the American Government was enabled to concentrate on the Niagara frontier the whole of its disposable force for the purpose of insuring success to its schemes of subjugation.

The horde of mounted Kentuckians under General McArthur did not make its appearance until the enemy were retiring from Fort Erie to their own shore. It was checked in its attempt to pass the Grand River by a detachment of the 103d regiment and a band of Indian warriors, and its retreat has been followed by a detachment of the 19th Light Dragoons, conducted by an officer of the Quarter-Master-General's department. Its course is marked by wanton plunder, devastation, and indiscriminate pillage. It is to be lamented that the rapid movement of the marauders has screened them from the punishment due to a course of lawless conduct equally repugnant to the dictates of humanity and the usages of war.

It will prove a most grateful duty to the Commander of the Forces to bring to the notice of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent the able support he has experienced in the talents and exertions of Lieutenant-General Drummond, and in transmitting the reports of that officer, which record in detail the most honourable testimony of the ready assistance he has received from the generals and other officers and troops serving with the right division, particularly the cordial co-operation and the gallant and most useful exertions of Captain Dobbs of the Royal Navy and the officers and seamen placed under his command, as well as other remarkable

instances of zeal and bravery which have been displayed by corps and individuals, and have attracted the applause of the Lieutenant-General.

EDWARD BAYNES,  
Adjutant-General.

**Extract of a Letter from Colonel Talbot to Captain Foster, dated Major Salmon's, Long Point, 3rd December, 1814.**

Your letter from Kingston, dated the 18th of last month, reached me some days ago. I have, in compliance with the desire of Lieutenant-General Drummond, collected the enclosed information respecting Dixon and the persons who formed his party.

The most satisfactory particular is his having survived his atrocious murder of poor Captain Francis but a few days, he having received a mortal wound from some militiamen near Sugar Loaf. His associates, Dockstader and Robinson, succeeded in taking him to Buffalo, where he died a few hours after his arrival. His wife, who is a native of this Province, has returned to her father's at Long Point. I have required her deposition to be taken before two Magistrates, and also those of the family of Dennis, who lived in Captain Francis' house at the time the murder was perpetrated, which are herewith transmitted. I cannot conceive that the Government of the United States will for a moment hesitate in affording its sanction and assistance in apprehending and delivering up Dockstader and Robinson, who were the only persons concerned with Dixon in the murder.

(Memo.)

The late John Dixon, who headed a gang of marauders composed of the undermentioned persons, was a native of the United States of America, but resided in Upper Canada for several years prior to the commencement of the present war, where he married the daughter of an U. E. Loyalist. He fled from Long Point to Buffalo in 1813, when the troops of the United States occupied Fort George and the Niagara frontier. From the unsettled state of the coast of Lake Erie between Dover and Fort Erie, this gang have been enabled to make repeated incursions in this part of the Province, where they have plundered several families and have frequently fired upon the inhabitants. His last act was the murder of Captain Francis, in the perpetration of which, it appears from the annexed deposition, he was assisted by two other men—Henry

Dochstader, a Canadian; and John Robinson, supposed to be a citizen of the United States.

*Names of Dixon's Associates.*

- Murderers { John Dixon, born in the United States.
- { Henry Dochstader, a Canadian.
- { John Robinson, United States.
- Simon Maybee, born in United States.
- Samuel Green, born in United States.
- John G. Harris, born in United States.
- Robert Carr, born in Ireland.
- Augustus Parks, born in United States.
- John Vandervoort, born in United States.
- Elias Long, born in United States.
- Barnabas Gibbs born in United States.
- John Gibbs, born in United States.
- Wm. Corbett, born in England.
- Guy Richards, born in the United States.

The above persons have all been residents of Upper Canada for several years before the war. Dochstader is a half Indian, born in Upper Canada.

THOS. TALBOT.

Long Point, . h December, 1814.

Personally appeared before us, George C. Salmon and Thos. Bowlby, Esqrs., two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the London District of Upper Canada, Elizabeth Dixon, who being sworn on the Holy Evangelists, deposed and saith that John Dixon, her husband, left this country and went to the United States since the commencement of this war, and that she followed him to the neighborhood of Buffalo; that during the time she was at that place, her husband John Dixon, John Robinson, and Henry Dochstader passed over into Canada together, and that she heard them say they were determined to take the lives of Col. Thos. Talbot, Capt. Wm. Francis, Thomas Francis, and William Drake. That sometime about the first day of November last they returned to the house of her husband, John Dixon, near Buffalo, that John Dixon was wounded and died a few hours after he reached his house; that she heard them say that they had killed Capt. Francis and burnt his house and him in it; that she had seen also at the house of her husband, near Buffalo, several persons who had left this Province and remembers seeing the following persons: Eber Decew, John Vandervoort, John Van Allen, John Gibbs, Barney

Gibbs, Martin Burnam, Guy P. Richards, George Wolfe, John Kendrick and Simon Mabee, and that she was at her husband's funeral, and a few days after she left the United States and came into this Province.

(Sgd.) ELIZABETH <sup>her</sup>(X) DIXON.  
mark.

Sworn before us this 3d December, 1814.

(Sgd.) GEORGE C. SALMON, J. P.  
THOS. BOWLBY, J. P.

Personally appeared before us, George C. Salmon and Thomas Bowlby, Esqrs., two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the London District and Province of Upper Canada, John Dennis, Jane Dennis and Sophia Dennis, who, being duly sworn, make oath and say that they are now living on a farm which belonged to the late Captain Wm. Francis, and have lived on the same since the month of April last; that during that period they have frequently heard of a gang of robbers called Dixon's party, that sometime about the middle of the month of October last three men came to their house at about ten o'clock in the night, armed, and asked if Captain Francis was there; that one of the deponents, Jane Dennis, told them to go to his house and look, (meaning the building formerly occupied by the said Captain Francis); that in the meantime Captain Francis, who was in bed when they first came to the house, got up and walked over the floor, by which means these deponents suppose they discovered him; that one of the party called to him and asked if he was there; that Captain Francis replied and asked what they wanted of him; that they replied that they wanted to kill him; that Captain Francis requested of them not to take his life and that he would go with them if they would only spare his life; that they heard the report of a gun out of the door, and heard something fall on the floor above stairs where Captain Francis was; that one of the party took a stick which was on fire and went upstairs, and when he came down heard him tell the rest of the party that Captain Francis was dead and with his hands showed on his head where he had been shot; that they left the corpse in the house and burned the house; that they refused to let the deponents take the body out of the house or bury him. That they said it was lucky for Thomas Francis that he was not there or he should have met the same fate, and that there were some people in this Province should meet the

same fate also; and that the deponents verily believed that the party consisted of John Dixon, Henry Dochstader, but they cannot tell, neither do they know, who the third person was.

(Sgd.) JOHN DENNIS,

JANE <sup>her</sup>(X) DENNIS,  
mark

SOPHIA <sup>her</sup>(X) DENNIS.  
mark

Sworn before us this 3rd day of December, 1814.

(Sgd. GEORGE C. SALMON, J. P.,  
THOS. BOWLBY, J. P.

### Colonel Talbot to Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey.

MAJOR SALMON'S, 7th December, 1814.

MY DEAR SIR,—I hasten to communicate to you the following information, which I have this day received from three respectable farmers of the neighbourhood of Amherstburg, who have found it necessary to desert their homes from an apprehension of being taken up by the enemy and sent to Chillicothe. They left the new settlement (12 miles this side of Amherstburg) the 26th of last month. The troops under General McArthur had, it was understood, returned to Kentuckey, leaving 600 men, chiefly militia of Kentuckey and Ohio, who are drafted for six months service. This force is distributed to the different forts on the Detroit, but much the larger proportion occupied the new fort that the enemy have erected at Amherstburg, where every exertion is used to render it strong. The troops have been on very short allowance of provisions, some weeks without bread, and at the time of my informers leaving that part of the country the enemy had strong detachments out collecting by force the provisions in the different settlements within the limits described in Col. Miller's proclamation, which I enclose, it having been taken down from the place of its exhibition by one of the party now arrived. They further state that it was current at Detroit that the officer commanding had reported to the Government of the United States, that no supplies of provisions would be required from that country, as the part of Canada under his control could furnish a sufficiency for the troops occupying Detroit and the western frontier of Canada. The confidential person that I mentioned in my last letter to you as having sent to the westward, I do not expect to return for a fortnight. He will, I am convinced, bring an accurate report of the state of

things in that direction, but I fear that they will be as unfavorable as the present.

There is some appearance of winter setting in. I hope it may be the case, which will enable me to proceed for Montreal.

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**Lieutenant-Colonel James to Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey.**

BURLINGTON, 11th December, 1814.

SIR,—I have been honored by your letter of the 29th ulto., and as the recommendation of a Staff Adjutant for this post does not meet with the approbation of Lieutenant-General Drummond, it will afford me great pleasure if by a continuance of my exertion the several duties are discharged to his satisfaction.

A very well known loyal subject, a Mr. John Stockwell, who lives fourteen miles on this side Malden, came here yesterday and informed me that he left home on the 27th ult., at which period the enemy were very busily employed in throwing up a work and stockading a small point near Malden, under the impression that the English would pay them a visit very soon. He states that the enemy at present are very few at Malden and not more than 200 at Detroit, and those barely coming under the denomination of soldiers. Every man that could be relied on has been sent to the southward, Americans as well as Indians; the former are actively employed in carrying off all the corn in that part of Mr. Stockwell's neighborhood, and occasionally in driving away the cattle. He decidedly states that General McArthur's force in the first instance, and before they crossed the Thames, to amount to nine hundred men, but six hundred only entered this country, the other three hundred having deserted in two days.

Mr. Stockwell requests it to be made known to General Drummond his entire knowledge of the country, and confidence that he can at any time conduct a considerable force unperceived to the enemy's works. He has also requested I would state the serious injury arising from the information given to the enemy by a number of men, (Americans,) settled near to him, and who are their agents for corn and cattle, and expresses an earnest desire that they may be removed, which he himself is ready to do with a small party of Indians only.

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**Report of a Meeting of the Loyal and Patriotic Society.**

At a meeting of Directors of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society* held at the Chief Justice's on the 22d December, 1814:

## PRESENT.

The Honble Thomas Scott, Chief Justice, President.  
The Honble Wm. D. Powell, Vice-President.

*Directors:—*

The Honble Wm. Campbell.

The Revd. Doctor Strachan.

Wm. Chewett, Esqr.

Grant Powell, Esqr.

Wm Allan, Esqr.

Alexander Wood, Esqr., *Secretary*.

The President read the following letter, from General Drummond:

QUEENSTON, 1st January, 1814.

SIR,—When shortly after my being appointed to the command of this Province, on visiting the Niagara Frontier, I was shocked beyond measure at beholding the desolation that had been spread over the once flourishing village of Niagara by an atrocious and sacrreligious enemy. Every feeling of just resentment was exerted against a Government that could sanction such an act so unprovoked and inhuman, and when I reflected that the innocent and unfortunate inhabitants were driven from their houses to undergo all the severities of a most inclement winter, retributive justice demanded of me a speedy retaliation on the opposite shore of America, and you are not unacquainted with the result of my determination.

As the principal sharer in the immense stores that have been captured in the important fortress of Niagara, I beg leave, Sir, to subscribe my portion of the prize money towards relieving the distresses of those persons who inhabited the late village of Niagara as well as the frontier in its vicinity, and I place every reliance on the benevolent and patriotic exertions of yourself and other gentlemen, members of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society* of Upper Canada, for discovering such of them as stand in the most immediate need of assistance, in order that it may with as little delay as possible be administered to them, after the distribution of prize money shall have been made.

The treasurer then laid before the board a letter which he had received from Lieutenant-Colonel Foster, enclosing the sum of two hundred pounds, provincial currency, being the amount of the annual subscription of His Honor Lieutenant-General Drummond, and one hundred and sixty pounds of like currency, being his proportion of the first division of the Niagara prize money, the whole

of which he has been pleased to dedicate to the service of the institution.

KINGSTON, 4th December, 1814.

SIR,—I have received the truly gratifying commands of Lieutenant-General Druramond to remit to you the accompanying sum of three hundred and sixty pounds, Halifax currency, which His Honor requests that you will have the goodness to place to the credit of the Loyal and Patriotic Fund of Upper Canada, two hundred pounds thereof being the amount of His Honor's annual subscription, and one hundred and sixty that of his proportion of the first dividend of the Niagara prize money.

The Lieutenant-General regrets that this latter sum should have fallen so very far short of his expectations, but he trusts the next dividend will afford him a share better worth the acceptance of the society, for the truly laudable and benevolent purposes of so patriotic and charitable an institution.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

C. FOSTER,

*Military Secretary.*

At a meeting of the Directors of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society*, holden at the Chambers of the Chief Justice on the 21st day of January, 1815:

The Honble Thomas Scott, Chief Justice, President.

*Directors:—*

Major Allan.

John B. Robinson.

The Revd. Doctor Strachan.

Alexander Wood, Esqr., *Secretary.*

Appeared, Jacob Wood, from the County of Oxford, and produced a certificate from Major Bowen, stating that he accompanied George Nichol from Oxford to Burford to give information of the advance of the American army, and in consequence of which his house, furniture, barn, hay, grain, joiner's shop and tools were destroyed by the enemy.

*Resolved,*—That the like sum of two hundred dollars that was voted George Nichol be given Jacob Wood, as his services were equally meritorious.

A certificate was also produced from Major Bowen in favor of Henry Lester, Sergeant of the Oxford Militia, stating that he had lost his grain, fences and potatoes by the depredations of the enemy, and the certificate further states that he is a loyal subject and

was always ready to defend the country when called upon by his superior officers.

*Resolved*,—That the sum of fifty dollars be given to Henry Lester.

Jacob Wood was interrogated by the society, whether he and George Nichol were paroled by General McArthur previous to their giving the British warning of the American army; in answer he stated that he and George Nichol had left their homes on hearing of the approach of the enemy, and so far from giving their parole that they never were in the power of General McArthur or his army.

The Directors put this question to Jacob Wood because McArthur in his official report states it as his reason for burning the houses and destroying everything belonging to these two men, that they had broken their parole.

ALEXANDER WOOD,  
Secretary.

THOMAS SCOTT,  
President.

(*From Report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 160-2.*)

Swain Corliss, of the London District, appeared before the society and stated that he was severely wounded in a skirmish at Malcolm's Mills with General McArthur's troops, and left on the field and stripped; he has lost the use of his left arm in a great degree, had seventeen balls that pierced his shirt, seven balls entered his body, three of which still remain in it; he has a wife and seven children.

In consideration of his sufferings and services, the society vote him fifty pounds, which, with ten pounds already received, make the whole donation sixty pounds.

(*Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 184-5.*)

**Account of Houses Burned in the Town of Niagara and on the  
Niagara Frontier by the Enemy, with the Supposed  
Valuation Thereof.**

Isaac Swayze, a house and barn . . . . .	£ 200
William Dickson, a brick house . . . . .	1,000
Martin McLellan, house and stable . . . . .	100
Michael Bellinger, a barn . . . . .	125
Castel Chorus, do. . . . .	125
Thos. Butler, house, stable and barn . . . . .	200
Johnson Butler, do. do. . . . .	350

John Secord, house, stable and barn . . . . .	1,200
Peter Ball, do. do. . . . .	800
John Ball, do. do. . . . .	1,000
James Crooks, do. do. . . . .	625
George Lawe, do. do. . . . .	200
Thomas Merritt, do. do. . . . .	400
Reverend Mr. Burns, a house . . . . .	60
John McKay, a barn, &c. . . . .	60
John Symington, house, &c. . . . .	400
James Clark, house . . . . .	400
Ralph Clench, house, stable, &c. . . . .	150
John Macfarlane, house, &c. . . . .	100
Charles Gesseau, 2 houses . . . . .	400
Doctor Homes, a house . . . . .	100
Doctor Kerr, house, stable, &c. . . . .	650
Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, 2 houses . . . . .	500
Alexr. McKee, 2 houses . . . . .	600
Mrs. Forsyth, a house, stable, &c. . . . .	1,250
Garret Slingerland, near the town, lost house and barn . . . . .	200
John Eggleston, 3 houses . . . . .	750
Thomas Powers, 2 do. . . . .	1,250
Doctor Muirhead . . . . .	500
Mrs. Stewart . . . . .	500
McKean and McEwan . . . . .	1,000
Andrew Heron . . . . .	700
William Dorman, McEwan & Co. . . . .	150
David Hartman . . . . .	100
Alexander Rogers . . . . .	400
Samuel Bunting . . . . .	100
Children of John Kelly, deceased . . . . .	150
Peter De Jordan . . . . .	100
Mrs. Rose Fields . . . . .	750
Samuel Cassady . . . . .	150
John Monroe . . . . .	200
Daniel Secord's house, owned by John . . . . .	200
Mrs. Wright . . . . .	150
Estate of Fitzgerald . . . . .	100
John Grier . . . . .	750
John Young . . . . .	1,000
James Crooks . . . . .	1,000
William Dickson . . . . .	1,000
Estate of John Emery . . . . .	1,000
Joseph Edwards . . . . .	500
Mrs. Bradshaw . . . . .	150

James Rogers	250
Mrs. Frey	300
John Saunders	100
James ———	50
Estate of Davenport Phelps	100
Colonel P———	600
Estate of Colin McNabb	50
Edward Vanderlip	1,000
Mrs. Hill	500
Alexander Garner	450
Major Campbell's estate	350
Francis Waddell's do.	350
James Clark, sr., do.	200
Colonel Claus	1,000
John Powell	300
Mrs. McBride	300
Estate of John Jones	650
Joseh Adlam	25
Joined	} 250 250 375 500 750
the	
enemy	
William W———	
John Wagstaff	
John Doty	375
Phineas Howell	500
Samuel Thompson	750
In Niagara—80 houses, besides barns, stables, etc.	
Elijah Phelp's barn	300
James Cooper's house	300
John Knox's do.	200
——— Johnston's do.	200
Thomas Lundy	300
Philip Bender	400
John Muirhead	300
James Macklem	750
Christian R(iselay?), Frenchman's Creek	400
Alexander Douglas, farm house	400
Henry Trout, ferry	200
John Warren, do.	250
Benjamin Hardison	400
Alexander Douglas, 2 houses	600
Henry Warren, house and store	450
Hugh Alexander, do. do.	450
Jeremiah Kettle, do. do.	150
Messrs. Hamilton & Co., storehouse.	
Messrs. Grant and Kerby's storehouse at Chippawa.	
Robert Hamilton's barns and stables.	

*Burned by Accident by our Troops.*

Joseph Brown, Niagara Road . . . . .	250
Mr. Hamilton's, Queenston . . . . .	2,006
James Rogers, do. . . . .	350
John Fanning, Chippawa . . . . .	700

*Burned by Order of the Commanding General.*

Thomas Cummings, 2 houses and store	} Chippawa.
J. J. Lefferty, a house	
— Morningstar, a house, Black Creek.	

**A List of Buildings Burnt and Destroyed in Village of St. Davids  
by General Brown's Army, on the 19th July, 1814.**

David Secord—3 houses, 2 barns, 1 mill . . . . .	£2,240
Richard Woodruff—1 house, 1 shop . . . . .	300
Widow Clement—1 do. 1 barn . . . . .	600
Widow Lowell—1 do. . . . .	200
Timothy Street—2 do. 1 shop . . . . .	430
Jacob Lutz—1 do. . . . .	125
Widow Secord—1 do. . . . .	500
Widow Bunting—1 barn . . . . .	75
Daniel Secord—1 house, 1 barn . . . . .	375
Samuel Boyd—1 do. . . . .	250
Estate of Thos. Bunting—1 house . . . . .	200
John Collard—1 house . . . . .	436

£5,731

Currency.

(From Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 379-383.)

**Minutes of Proceedings by the Trustees Appointed by Lieut.-  
General Drummond, President, Administering the Govern-  
ment of Upper Canada, to Distribute the Nova Scotia  
Benevolence to the Sufferers by the War in  
this Province.**

(Extract.)

1816.

June 20.—Left York and on 22nd arrived at Stamford; procured returns of houses burned at Newark, on the line to Fort Erie, and in the Village of St. Davids.

June 23, 24.—Deliberated on the means of giving the best effect to the liberality of the sister Province.

After canvassing various propositions for the distribution, agreed to limit it to the town of Newark and the line to Fort Erie, and as we formed a board of directors of the Loyal and Patriotic Society, and had at our disposal the sum of two thousand pounds of their funds for this district, decided to relieve the sufferers at St. Davids from it.

Agreed to abstract from the list for relief all such as upon good information would receive no essential benefit from the partial relief the fund would afford.

June 25.—Called to our assistance Colonel Dickson, the Rev'd Mr. Addison, Mr. Swayze, Mr. Clench and Major Secord to estimate the value of the buildings and the relative circumstances of the sufferers.

The houses burned at Newark were in number 80, value . . .	£30,520
On the line, 18, " . . .	6,050
	98
	£36,570

The properties of those not supposed in distress . . . . £22,525

The money distributed among the remainder, the value of whose properties amounted to £14,045.

### Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society.

(Extracts.)

To Mahlon Burwell, Esq., £50.

This gentleman, a member of the House of Assembly, Lieutenant-Colonel of Militia, was active against the enemy on all occasions, and became odious to them. At night they made a sudden incursion on the Talbot settlement, found him in his bed ill of the ague, and dragged him without hat or coat away to Detroit a prisoner, and from thence to Kentucky, where he remained many weeks; his house having been burnt and all property destroyed, and his family driven off. The society, on Colonel Burwell's return, requested his acceptance as a mark of regard P. 237.

Sykes Touseley, Esq., Major, Oxford Militia.

This gentleman had been active during the war, and was marked out for plunder and depredation. From the greatness of his losses the society was induced to order him £60. P. 245.

Daniel Springer, Esq., London District.

Captain Springer exerted himself in defending the Province

by actively performing his duty on all occasions. He therefore became, as usual, extremely obnoxious to the enemy and the disaffected, a party of whom seized him on the 1st February, 1814, and after binding him took his own horses and sleigh, and placing him in it, carried him to Kentucky. Shortly after his departure, his family was obliged to remove to the Grand River. He returned in time to share in the glory of the battle of the Falls. P. 247.

### **Memorial of Thomas Cummings.**

To His Honor Gordon Drummond, Esquire, President administering the Government in the Province of Upper Canada and Lieutenant-General Commanding His Majesty's Forces within the said Province, &c., &c.

The Memorial of Thomas Cummings, Esqr., of the Township of Willoughby and District of Niagara and Province of Upper Canada,

Humbly sheweth:

That your memorialist lived at the mouth of the Chippawa since the close of the American Rebellion, and made very large improvements on his lands, besides a number of buildings, which is now all destroyed by fire and the farm laid waste and is now a common, which by that means your memorialist is unable to support himself and family. The first two buildings were destroyed by fire on the 13th of December, 1812, whilst occupied by the 2nd and 4th Regiments of Lincoln Militia. There was a board of claims ordered by Major-General Sheaffe to sit in different parts of the District of Niagara, which was done, and the board awarded me for the two buildings, &c., which was destroyed by fire, the sum of £909 9s 1½d currency, which sum I have never received any part of as yet. About the beginning of last July your memorialist had twenty more houses, large and small, burnt by order of Major-General Riall at the same place, which buildings I got appraised by two carpenters previous to their being burnt, one of whom was master carpenter in the Royal Engineer Department, which buildings they appraised at £1,570 15s, Halifax currency, as per annexed accounts, making the whole buildings, including the two former occupied by the 2nd and 4th Regiments of Lincoln Militia, to amount of £2,480 4s 1½d currency, which sum is a very serious loss for me to lay out of at this time when I have every article to purchase at the highest rate for myself and family. Your memorialist has spent the prime of his life in His Majesty's service, to wit: seven years in the late American Rebellion and twenty-one years in the Commissariat Department, and is now advanced in years and unable to labor to

support himself and family. Your memorialist prays that Your Honor will be pleased to take his case into your most serious consideration, and be pleased to order him payment for the above mentioned sum.

And your memorialist, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

**Colonel Thomas Talbot to the Committee of the Loyal and Patriotic Society.**

LONG POINT, 1st June, 1814.

SIR.—In compliance with the wishes of the committee appointed for the distribution of the sum of money appropriated by the Legislature of Nova Scotia towards the relief of the sufferers by the war in this Province, I have the honor to transmit to you for their consideration a return of the loss sustained by the inhabitants of the County of Norfolk when the enemy landed at Dover. I will at all times feel extreme pleasure in executing the instructions of the committee.

**A Return of Property Destroyed by the Americans at Long Point, County of Norfolk, District of London, Upper Canada, on the 15th and 16th of May, 1814.**

*At Dover Mills:—*

Robert Nichol, 2 houses, 2 barns, 1 grist mill, 1 saw mill, 1 distillery . . . . .	£5,000	
Daniel McQueen, 2 houses, 2 barns . . . . .	517	
Peter Walker . . . . .	8	
James Wattles, house, &c. . . . .	77	10
Samuel Williams . . . . .	125	
Francis ——— . . . . .	17	10
Abm. Rapelje, house, &c. . . . .	112	10
Mathias Steele . . . . .	73	3
William Drake, house, &c. . . . .	439	
Nathan Mann, house . . . . .	25	
Edward Landen . . . . .	12	
Isaac Olds . . . . .	50	
Benj. Meade, 2 houses, 2 barns, tannery . . . . .	568	10
Wymont Williams, house, barn, &c. . . . .	881	5
Jonathan Williams, house, barn, &c. . . . .	657	10
Henry Bostwick, house, barn, and office.		
In charge of Henry Bostwick, house and barn.		
Robert Henderson . . . . .	12	10

*At Ryerse's Mills:—*

Sarah Ryerse, house, mill and distillery . . . . .	£2,500	
Daniel Ross . . . . .	37	10
Henry Medcalf . . . . .	300	

*At Finch's Mills:—*

Titus Finch, house, barn, saw and grist mills, and distillery . . . . .	530	
Silas Montross, 2 houses and barn . . . . .	571	2
Wm. Dunmeade . . . . .	25	
Wm. Harrington, barn . . . . .	125	

**Colonel Thomas Talbot to the Loyal and Patriotic Society.**

Colonel Talbot has the honor of stating to the Loyal and Patriotic Society, that on the sixteenth of last month the enemy, amounting to upwards of one hundred men, composed of Indians and Americans painted and disguised as the former, surprised the settlement of Port Talbot, where they committed the most wanton and atrocious acts of violence by robbing the undermentioned fifty heads of families of all their horses and every particle of wearing apparel and household furniture, leaving the sufferers naked and in the most wretched state:—

1. Samuel McIntire, a wife, both between 60 and 70 years of age.
2. Daniel McIntire, a wife and 1 child.
3. John Philpot, a wife and 2 children.
4. Ira Gilbert, a wife and 3 do.
5. John Axford, a wife and 5 do.
6. Samuel Axford, a wife and 4 do.
7. William Brooks, a wife and 7 do.
8. William Johnson, a wife and 2 do.
9. Henry Barger.
10. John Caddy, a wife and 2 children.
11. Samuel Guernsey, a wife and 3 do.
12. Sam'l Brotherhood, a wife and 2 do.
13. John Barber, a wife and 2 do.
14. John Mitchell, a wife and 6 do.
15. Mahlon B rwell, Esq., a wife and 2 do.
16. Leslie Patterson, a wife and 4 do.
17. Alexander Wilkinson, a wife and 2 do.
18. James Wilkinson, single.
19. John Fulman, a wife and 9 children.

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 20. | Nathan Baldwin,  | } Wounded at the battle of<br>Lundy's Lane. |
| 21. | Robert Burwell,  |   |
| 22. | Samuel Burwell,  |   |
| 23. | Joseph Phillips,   |   |
| 24. | James Burwell, a wife and 11 children.                         |   |
| 25. | John Cook, single.   |   |
| 26. | Charles Benedict, single.                                      |   |
| 27. | Walter Galbraith, do.  |   |
| 28. | Gilman Wilson, a wife and 8 children.                          |   |
| 29. | Jesse Page, a wife and 6                                       | do.   |
| 30. | Mark Chase, a wife and 11                                      | do.   |
| 31. | John Quick, a wife and 2                                       | do.   |
| 32. | John Parker, a wife and 4                                      | do.   |
| 33. | Thomas Mathews, a wife and 1                                   | do.   |
| 34. | Thomas Henley, a wife; both between 60 and 70 years<br>of age. |   |
| 35. | George Crane, a wife and 6 children.                           |   |
| 36. | Enoch Huntley, a wife and 4                                    | do.   |
| 37. | Dute Underwood, a wife and 5                                   | do.   |
| 38. | Elijah Goff, a wife and 6                                      | do.   |
| 39. | Jarvis Phair, a wife and 5                                     | do.   |
| 40. | John Carsir, a wife and 3                                      | do.   |
| 41. | Mary Story, a widow, 60 years of age.                          |   |
| 42. | Walter Story, single.  |   |
| 43. | Stephen Backus, a wife and 2 children.                         |   |
| 44. | John ———, a wife and 7   | do.   |
| 45. | James Sears, a wife and 3                                      | do.   |
| 46. | John Crawford, a wife and 1                                    | do.   |
| 47. | Samuel Crawford, single.                                       |   |
| 48. | Nicholas Lytle,  | do.   |
| 49. | Prideaux Girty,  | do.   |
| 50. | Richard McCurdy, 4 children.                                   |   |

THOMAS TALBOT.

YORK, 2d September, 1814.

(From Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 384-387.)

**Pay Roll of the Indians During War of 1812.**

The United States to Erastus Granger, Paymaster to the Indians, Dr.

1813.						
Nov. 20.	To amt. pd. Indian Volunteers as per receipt'd roll.					\$2048 00
Dec. 6.	To amt. pd. as per	do.	do.	do.		972 00
1814.						
Jan. 31.	To amt. pd.	do.	do.	do.	do.	948 00
Jan. 31.	To amt. pd.	do.	do.	do.	do.	932 00
Jan. 31.	To amt. pd. Indians	do.	do.	do.	do.	1252 00
May 17.	To amt. pd. Indians	do.	do.	do.	do.	363 00
1815.						
May 1.	To amt. pd. Indians	do.	do.	do.	do.	8847 56
May 1.	To my salary as Paymaster to the Indian Volunteers, commencing Nov. 25th, 1813, and ending May 1st, 1815, at \$40 per month.					686 66
						\$16,049 22

(From MSS. of Col. James N. Granger.)

**Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon Drummond to Lord Bathurst.**

BRANCEPETH CASTLE,

DURHAM, August 9th, 1816.

MY LORD,—I beg leave to acquaint Your Lordship that having had the honor of an interview with His Royal Highness, the Commander-in-Chief, a short time after my arrival in England, I stated to His Royal Highness that I conceived the services of the portion of the army which was under my command in Upper Canada at the capture of Fort Niagara, at the actions of Black Rock and Buffalo, and particularly at the battle of Lundy's Lane near the Falls of Niagara, fully entitled them to the honorable distinction of receiving medals. His Royal Highness was pleased to say that he would take an early opportunity of mentioning the subject to Your Lordship, but which has in all probability from the numerous avocations of His Royal Highness escaped his memory.

Under this impression, I take the liberty of expressing my confident hope that Your Lordship will consider the right division of the army serving in the Canadas as worthy of receiving this gracious mark of approbation, as I have no hesitation in declaring my opinion that the preservation of the Upper Province was to be attributed to the persevering gallantry and good conduct of those troops in the above mentioned actions. I earnestly trust, therefore,

that when Your Lordship recurs to the action of Christler's Farm, for which a detachment of the right division under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison was distinguished by this flattering testimonial of their merits, that you will be pleased to consider the services of the army I had the honour to command as fully entitled to a similar reward.

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**General Order.**

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
SACKETT'S HARBOUR, 3d July, 1815.

After mature deliberation the court find the accused, Captain Joseph Treat of the 21st Regiment, not guilty of the charge or specifications preferred against him, and do honorably acquit him.

Taking into consideration all the circumstances relating to Captain Treat's case, Major-General Brown believes it to be his duty to approve the sentence of the court. But he embraces this opportunity to say that he has never seen an instance of American soldiers, such as Captain Treat's command, abandoning their officers in the face of the enemy. This is not the character of the soldiers our country breeds. So far as the experience of the Major-General goes, they have ever stood by their officers so long as their officers were disposed to stand by their colors or their honour.

It would appear, however, from the testimony before the court that the men composing the picket guard, commanded by Captain Treat on the morning of the 5th July, 1814, were an exception to the general rule, and therefore he is honorably acquitted.

BENJ. F. LARNED,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

*(From "Memoirs of My Own Time," by James Wilkinson, volume I., appendix No. V., Philadelphia, 1816.)*

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**Sentence of the Court.**

The court, having heard the evidence and the defence of the prisoner, directed the room to be cleared and proceeded to pronounce sentence.

After mature deliberation on the testimony adduced, the court find the accused, Captain Joseph Treat, of the 21st Infantry, not guilty of the charge or specification preferred against him, and do honorably acquit him.

WM. ANDERSON, Lieut., 18th Inf.,  
Judge Advocate.

**General Orders.**

Adjutant-General's Office,  
CHIPPAWA, July 5th, 1814.

A transaction degrading to the command occurred under the Major-General's eye this morning.

Captain Treat's attempts to excuse himself in that his detachment was a return picket, makes the thing worse.

Captain Treat shall no longer serve in the 21st Regiment, nor in this division, during the campaign.

By order of Major-General Brown.

C. K. GARDNER,  
Adjutant-General.

**Colonel H. Leavenworth to** \_\_\_\_\_

DELHI, January 15th, 1815.

DEAR SIR,—At your request I send you a statement of facts which transpired under my view during the action at the Falls of Niagara on the 25th of July last. By this you will be able to ascertain if my attendance and testimony will be material at your court of enquiry, and hope it may be dispensed with.

On that day the left division of the Northern army lay at Chippawa on the south side of the creek, except the 9th Regiment, which was posted in and near the blockhouse on the north side of the Chippawa near the junction of the creek with the Niagara, in advance towards the enemy. It was my lot to be the officer of the day. During the day the captain commanding picket No. 1 on the Niagara Road informed me that he had discovered the advance of the enemy to consist of one troop of the 19th Light Dragoons and two companies of infantry.

With a glass, which was at the picket, the enemy were plainly seen across the bend in the river at and near the falls. They were at the house of Mrs. Wilson, near the falls, and many officers in British uniform were to be seen. These facts were immediately related at headquarters. I was told the enemy could not be in force, as they had thrown a large portion of their forces across the Niagara from Queenston to Lewiston. It was apprehended to be the intention of the enemy to advance up the river on the American side to Schlosser, where our sick, ammunition and other stores then were. Not having the means either of transporting these stores to the west side of the river, or troops to the other side to defend them, General Scott was ordered to march immediately to Queenston with a view to induce the enemy to recross the Niagara. I was

immediately relieved as officer of the day, and ordered by General Scott to put my regiment without delay in light marching order. This order was obeyed, and in less than fifteen minutes General Scott's brigade and Towson's company of artillery, and Captain Harris with a troop of U. S. and volunteer dragoons, were on their march for Queenston. Having proceeded down the river about two miles and-a-half, we came in sight of the enemy's advance. General Scott now halted his column, which I ought to have before stated consisted, (in addition to those stated,) of the Ninth Regiment, which I had the honor to command, the Eleventh, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel (then Major) McNeil, the 22nd Regiment, commanded by Colonel Brady, and the 25th, commanded by Colonel (then Major) Jesup, amounting, in all, according to the best estimate I can now make, to about 700 men. The Ninth consisted at that time of 150 rank and file.

The enemy immediately began to retire before us, but from the information of the inhabitants it was thought they intended to give us battle. General Scott now ordered me with the Ninth Regiment to the left of the road, and to keep within supporting distance of the column; having gained my position, the column again moved forward. After marching in quick time about half a mile and coming to a narrow piece of woods, north of Mrs. Wilson's and between her house and the village at Lundy's Lane, the enemy commenced a fire upon our advance, which consisted of Captain Harris' command and a company of infantry commanded by that gallant officer, Captain Pentland, of the 22d Infantry. The column was again halted, and I received orders to take my position with my command in the column of line. After this order was executed, General Scott detached the 25th Regiment, under the command of Colonel Jesup, to the right to seek and attack the left of the enemy's line. The Ninth, Twenty-second, and Eleventh Regiments now passed the advanced corps, by orders of General Scott, and moved into a smooth field on the north side of the before-mentioned woods and west of the Niagara Road. It was now about half-past five o'clock p. m. The enemy commenced firing upon us from nine pieces of artillery, (two of which were brass 24-pounders,) and within canister distance. They also opened at the same time a brisk fire upon us from a heavy line of infantry, posted to the right and obliquely in front of their artillery. After advancing into the field so far as to have the rear of the battalion or regiment in advance clear of the woods, General Scott ordered "form line to the front." The right of the column being in front, this order was immediately executed by the *echelon* movement of companies to the left. The 22d and 11th Regiments moved in column until gain-

ing their respective distances, formed line in the same manner. At about the same time the company of artillery, under the command Colonel (then Captain) Towson, an officer above my encomium, was moved up and formed on the right of the Ninth Regiment, and by its frequent and incessant discharges highly animated the spirit of the troops. Under this formation the action continued for nearly an hour, when I heard that the 11th Regiment, being out of ammunition and their gallant leader, Colonel McNeil, severely wounded, and all the captains of that regiment either killed or wounded, had retired from the field. These facts were related to me by Captain John Bliss of that regiment, who, though severely wounded, gallantly offered his services to me, as did also Major (then Captain) Harris of the dragoons, his command being unable from the nature of the ground to act. I cannot forbear to mention that Lieutenant Crawford, Adjutant and Lieutenant Sawyer, as well as several other officers whose names I do not now recollect, of the 11th Regiment, joined my command and rendered me very able and essential services, particularly these gentlemen whose names I have mentioned.

Soon after the 11th Regiment had retired, Colonel Brady of the 22d Regiment being severely wounded, and that regiment having also exhausted its ammunition, shared the same fate as the 11th, and many of the officers as well as rank and file joined the standard of the 9th and fought the enemy with a spirit and desperation bordering upon desperation. I regret that the names of these officers are not at present recollected, and that I have not any documents by which I can ascertain them.

Colonel Towson, finding, from the elevated situation of the enemy's artillery, that he could not bring his artillery to bear upon them, had nearly or quite ceased firing, and from at least 20 minutes before sundown the field was contended for by the enemy against the 9th Regiment alone and those who had joined its standard. During this time General Scott sent his aid, Captain Worth, with orders to *advance* upon the enemy with a view to charge him. We ceased firing and advanced with supported arms until the order was countermanded, probably in consequence of the shattered condition of the 11th and 22d Regiments. Throwing forward our right to meet the enemy, who were pressing very hard upon our left, the regiment again commenced firing more briskly, if possible, than before. A circumstance occurred during this time which, though highly gratifying, fills me with remorse to mention, and nothing but the honor of my corps would induce me to do so. The bearer of the battalion colors of the 11th being cut down, I presume those colors had fallen to the ground, and it was the peculiar good

fortune of Lieutenant Otis Fisher of the 9th Regiment to find and raise them into the hand of the standard-bearer of the 9th Regiment, who was at that time Corporal Keniston, senior corporal of the color guard, Sergeant Dewing to whom they had been entrusted, (for want of a sufficient number of officers,) having been wounded and compelled to leave the field.

Major Harris again came to me and offered his services. I desired him to inform General Scott that the rule for retreating was fulfilled. General Scott soon came and ordered me to maintain my ground, and gave me the pleasing information that General Brown was approaching with General Ripley's brigade and General Porter's volunteers.

At this moment General Scott's horse was wounded and rendered useless.

At about 9 o'clock, as I suppose from the circumstance of its then being dark, the arrival of General Ripley's brigade and other reinforcements was announced.

At this moment the enemy ceased their fire and retired from the field.

General Scott ordered all the men of the 11th and 22d Regiments who could be found to be collected and formed into one battalion. While we were doing this, General Scott announced to us the capture of Major-General Riall. The men gave three cheers, which drew on us a shell from the enemy, which passed our line and exploded in the column of artillery commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel (then Major) Hindman and blew up a caisson of ammunition belonging to Captain Ritchie's company.

A brisk and heavy fire of musketry informed us that General Ripley with his brigade had attacked the enemy on the hill, with a view to carry their park of artillery. The firing on the hill soon ceased, and the battalion, composed of the 9th, 11th and 22d Regiments, being formed, the command of it was given to Colonel Brady, who yet continued on the field although severely wounded. He was assisted by Major Arrowsmith of the 23d. General Scott's Brigade-Major, Captain Smith of the 6th, and his aid-de-camp, Captain Worth of the 23d, being both severely wounded and having left the field, General Scott accepted an offer from me to act as his aid.

General Scott then formed the remainder of the brigade (except the 25th Regiment) into column and moved across the field in a westerly direction and formed them in line on the south side of a narrow lane, a little to the south of and running nearly in the same direction as Lundy's Lane. I was then ordered by General Scott to find General Brown if possible, and desire him to give

orders for the disposition of General Scott's brigade. I rode on the hill, and the enemy again commenced an attack with a view to regain their artillery, but they were soon repulsed, and I found General Brown, who rode with me to see General Scott. After Generals Brown and Scott had conversed a few minutes, I was ordered by General Scott to take command of the consolidated battalion (Colonel Brady being too much exhausted by loss of blood to command, though he declined leaving the field.) My orders were to march the battalion to the top of the hill and form there a second line. They were formed in Lundy's Lane, with the right towards the Niagara road and their left in rear of the captured artillery. This artillery and the American field artillery occupied the summit of the eminence near the old church. Next on the right of his artillery was the 23d Regiment, and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, on the extreme right. On the left of the artillery was the 21st Regiment with some other troops consolidated with it, then the 1st Infantry. General Porter's volunteers occupied the extreme left. The army was thus situated when information was received that the enemy was again advancing, and their near approach was discovered by a sheet of fire from both armies, who were not to exceed thirty yards from each other and nearly in parallel lines.

General Scott, having been absent from us a short time for the purpose, as I supposed, of ascertaining the situation of the enemy, returned and asked me in a loud and animated voice, "Are these troops prepared for the charge?" And without giving me time to answer him he added, "Yes, I know, they are prepared for anything!" and he ordered me to form them in close column, left in front. This being done, General Scott ordered, "Forward and charge, my brave fellows!" and leading the column himself we passed through our line between the pieces of artillery and came in contact with the left of the enemy's line, a short distance past the centre, which immediately gave way. Owing, however, to the darkness of the night, our column had become in some degree irregular: we passed extreme left of General Porter's volunteers and formed our men in line. General Scott again ordered me to form the troops "in column at half distance right in front." This order being executed, General Scott again led the column to the charge with a view to turn the enemy's right flank, but finding that flank supported by a heavy second line, the charge was withdrawn. General Scott then passed through the American line and joined Colonel Jesup with the 25th Regiment on the right of the line, and was there wounded. The remainder of General Scott's brigade were again formed, a small distance from the left of General Porter's

volunteers. This was executed in the presence of Major-General Brown. He informs me that he was wounded at this period. In executing formation I received the most essential services from Lieutenant Cushman, Acting-Adjutant of the Ninth Regiment, and Lieutenant Crawford, Adjutant of the 11th Regiment; Lieutenant Brady of the 22nd also rendered me the most substantial service on this occasion. In my opinion he has merited the particular attention of the War Department as much as any officer in the army.

This formation being executed, Major Jones, Assistant-Adjutant-General, generously offered to ascertain the position of the contending armies and inform me at what point the troops under my command could be led into action to the greatest advantage and without injury to our own men of other corps. Having been dismounted since the first charge, this offer was of the greatest service to me, and most gladly did I accept it. Major Jones then reconnoitred in the most gallant manner, under an incessant fire of musketry, the position of the American line and reported it to me. From this report I was induced to lead the troops under my command to the summit of the hill. Firing had now ceased on both sides. The thickest and most impenetrable darkness prevailed. All was still, and nothing to be heard but the groans of the wounded and dying. Moving forward to gain the summit of the hill, I was hailed by General Scott, who informed me of his wounds and ordered me to push forward and join the 25th Regiment under the command of Colonel Jesup, who was also severely wounded. General Scott informed me he was then compelled by the severity of his wounds to retire from the field, and ordered me, in case the enemy should again return to the contest, to seek an opportunity to *charge* and drive them from the field with the bayonet. In a short time after General Brown hailed me and inquired for General Scott. I informed him that he was wounded and gone from the field. He then informed me of his own wounds, and that I must look to General Ripley for orders, as the command of course devolved on him. I then moved on and formed my men on the right of the 25th Regiment and the extreme right of the American line. Colonel Jesup and myself now had some conversation as to our own situation and that of the army. His command and my own were consolidated, and consisted of all the effective men of the first brigade remaining on the field, which I do not think exceeded 150 or 200 men, exclusive of officers. The men were exhausted with fatigue and want of water. The enemy had retired from the field, but in what direction was not known. From the length of their lines, which we had during the action discovered by our own and their fire, we had reason to believe they were far superior to us in

numbers. To refresh our men on the field would be hazardous in the extreme, as we were liable to be flanked on our left and cut off from our camp at Chippawa. Under these circumstances, not knowing the situation of General Ripley's brigade or General Porter's corps, it was decidedly my opinion that the army ought to return to their camp at Chippawa. Colonel Jesup expressed to me the same opinion. He also directed me to take command of the troops of the first brigade while he went in search of General Ripley for orders and information. Colonel Jesup, suffering the most excruciating pain from his wounds and it being excessively dark, was unable to find General Ripley, and soon returned to me and again took command of the troops, and directed me to find General Ripley if possible, and obtain orders and information as to the intended course of operations. I soon found General Ripley, and informed him of my wish and my directions from Colonel Jesup. General Ripley inquired the strength and situation of the first brigade, and while doing so a person rode up to General Ripley with orders from General Brown, (as I understood). General Ripley then told me he had received orders from Major-General Brown to collect the wounded and return with those and the army to the camp at Chippawa. General Ripley then gave me orders to the same effect, as respected the first brigade. His information and order was immediately communicated by me to Colonel Jesup. He, feeling that the action was over and suffering severely from his wounds, did what most men would have sooner done—he gave to me the command of the troops of the first brigade and retired from the field. He, however, continued near us, and probably would have joined us had we been attacked. All the wounded who could be found on and near the field were put into wagons, which had been sent from the camp at Chippawa for that purpose, and sent off. General Ripley was very particular in his orders that the movement of the troops should be conducted with regularity and order, and so far as came to my knowledge his orders were strictly obeyed. Not a shot was fired from the enemy, and our troops moved in as good order and with as much regularity *from as to* the field, and arrived at Chippawa between one and two on the morning of the 26th.

During the whole of the night, as well during the action as after it, I was impressed with the high merit of General Ripley as a soldier, and the gallantry of his brigade in capturing the enemy's artillery. He manifested on that occasion, while in conversation with me, all that coolness and deliberation for which he has become distinguished, and which was so peculiarly necessary at a moment

big with the fate of the army under his command and the honour and glory of the American arms.

Having a hope that this statement may appear to the world as an honest relation of facts, I should do great injustice to my feelings did I not mention the gallant conduct of Captain Pentland of the 22d Regiment. Soon after the commencement of the action he brought his company (which had been the advance of General Scott's brigade) into action on my right. This was done in the most *brave* and soldier-like manner. His example and conversation had the most beneficial effect during the warmest of the action and contributed to keep the men steady and active in their duty.

As to the 9th Regiment, which on that occasion I had the honor to command, I cannot make particular distinction as to merit of individuals. Every man in the regiment, from the highest to the lowest, gave me the most perfect satisfaction. They maintained their ground against an overwhelming superiority of force in a manner that has seldom been excelled in any age or country. It has been stated that their numbers were but 150 rank and file when they entered the field, and it will appear from the official return of killed and wounded that 128, including every officer with the regiment, were included in that report. It is due to the memory of Lieutenant Burghardt, who was killed at the close of the action, to say that he particularly distinguished himself by continuing to do his duty in the most able manner after being severely wounded in the left side, at the commencement of the action; although he bled freely and was advised by me several times to go to the rear, he declined to do so and continued with me until he was shot through the breast in the last charge.

On the morning of the 26th, at about 7 or 8 o'clock, Colonel Gardner, Adjutant-General, came to me with an order to make a field report stating the strength of the first brigade, and to prepare them to march and take possession of the field of battle immediately. I immediately took measures to ascertain the strength of the several regiments. The 9th Regiment I counted myself, and recollect its effective force was 64 men. The strength of the other regiments I do not recollect. My impression now is that the whole strength of the brigade, exclusive of attendants on the wounded and the details for guard then on duty, did not exceed 500 or 600 men. The troops were formed and took up the line of march at about nine o'clock. After crossing the Chippawa, I received orders from General Ripley to take possession of the works at Chippawa with the first brigade, which was done by bridging the ditch on the south side of the breastworks, thereby making a platform for the men to stand upon.

From what I saw of our forces, which I do not think at that time exceeded 1,500 or 1,600 men, and from what I had seen of the enemy's force the preceding evening, I did think it the most consummate folly to attempt to regain possession of the field of battle, and every officer with whom I conversed, among whom were many of the first distinction, expressed their astonishment at such an attempt and their surprise that every exertion was not made immediately to take up the line of march for Fort Erie. The troops, however, recrossed the Chippawa at about 12 o'clock, and took up the line of march for Fort Erie. We arrived and encamped in good order in the field opposite the Black Rock ferry on the evening of the 26th July.

The march from Chippawa to Fort Erie was made in the most perfect order, nor was anything left behind us which could be of any advantage to the enemy.

*(From Wilkinson's Memoirs. Volume I., Appendix No. IX.)*

#### **Evidence of Captain MacDonald.**

William McDonald, Captain in the 19th Regiment of United States Infantry, being produced and sworn as a witness by General Ripley, testified:

That in the campaign of 1814, before and during the battle of Bridgewater near Niagara, he was acting aid to Brigadier-General Ripley. On the morning of the 25th of July, the army under Major-General Brown was encamped on the upper side of Chippawa Creek. Many of the men were that day engaged in washing, and about half an hour before sunset were still out when a firing was heard, which they in camp ascribed to General Scott's being engaged with the enemy, as he had marched out with his brigade about two hours before.

When General Scott first marched out it was the general impression that he had done so for the purpose of parade and drill. Our army at this time consisted of two brigades of regular troops, commanded by Brigadier-Generals Scott and Ripley, and a small corps of 500 or 600 volunteers under General Porter.

The total of General Ripley's brigade may have amounted to about 900—the effectives from 700 to 800. The day before, at Queenston Heights, he recollected hearing General Scott say that his brigade contained about the same number, perhaps rather less.

About the 16th of July, they had intelligence that General Riall of the British army lay at 10 and 12 Mile Creek with 1500 men. According to the general impression, he had a fortified

encampment. To the best of his knowledge no precise information was received of the force and position of the enemy between the 16th and 25th of July.

On the day last mentioned, the proportion of those who formed the washing parties and scattered men of the camp amounted in the second brigade alone to 150 or 200 men. There was parties from the other brigade also, but he could not state the number.

When General Scott moved out in the afternoon no idea was entertained that there would be an action, nor had they any knowledge of the vicinity of the enemy. The first information they had was from the firing.

In the order of the encampment the first brigade under General Scott rested on the Chippawa, the second, commanded by General Ripley, about two hundred yards distant, with their front to the Niagara and at right angles to the first. The encampment embraced the angle formed by the Niagara and the Chippawa, which at that place formed a junction. Across the Chippawa was a bridge, over which General Scott had passed and advanced about two miles when the firing of musketry commenced. Immediately on hearing it, General Ripley ordered his brigade to be formed. By the time this was effected the report of artillery was distinguished. Soon after, orders were received from Major-General Brown through some of his staff for the second brigade to advance and reinforce General Scott. General Ripley, immediately on receiving the order, marched with his brigade across the Chippawa, and when about half a mile in rear of the scene of the action, it being then near dusk, despatched the witness in advance to Major-General Brown to ascertain the situation of the enemy and what point he should march to and from his brigade.

The witness on his way to General Brown met his aid, Captain Spencer, proceeding with orders to General Ripley to form his brigade in the skirts of a wood on the right of General Scott's. The brigade accordingly continued to advance, and was in the act of forming the line when General Ripley remarked to Colonel Miller and other commanders that to form a line in that place would be of no consequence, as they could not advance in line through the woods, and they were not then within striking distance of the enemy. He added that he would take upon himself the responsibility of moving further on towards the enemy before he formed. The witness left the brigade for a few minutes to apprise General Brown of this movement, but did not find him, and immediately rejoined General Ripley.

The march from the encampment to the scene of action was prompt and rapid, and the brigade for one-half the distance was on

the long trot to keep with the General's horse. While passing the woods in pursuance of General Ripley's determination to advance, the fire of the enemy was very heavy, and their shot and shells fell about us in great quantities, but was more particularly directed at General Scott's brigade on the left, which the second was then in the act of passing. The impression was that the first brigade was at this time suffering very severely from the continued and destructive fire poured in upon them, and General Ripley, in consequence, remarked to the witness and Colonel Miller that he would detach the 21st Regiment, commanded by the latter, to carry the enemy's artillery, adding that unless this was done they would destroy our whole force or compel us to fall back; it was then completely dark, and though it was known their artillery was posted on an eminence, we had no knowledge of their number or how they were supported. The distance of General Scott's line from the enemy must have been between three and four hundred yards at that time, and there was then no firing of musketry from it.

After General Ripley's suggestion to Colonel Miller, the latter immediately made dispositions to execute it,—displayed his regiment by forming a line on the left of the road nearly fronting the enemy's artillery. General Ripley, at the same time he gave the order for the 21st to storm the battery by an attack in front, directed the 23d to form in column and march against the enemy's flank. About the time the 21st was preparing to move as directed, the witness met General Brown, who enquired for General Ripley and asked what disposition he had made; the witness informed him; he approved of it, appeared quite elated by the intelligence, and accompanied him to General Ripley. Some conversation took place between them, and in a very few minutes both battalions were in motion, the 21st commanded by Colonel Miller, the 23rd by Major McFarland but led by General Ripley in person. While the 23rd was advancing to operate against the enemy's flank, and about 150 yards distance from the height, they received a fire in front from perhaps 50 or 60 musketry, which threw them into confusion for a few minutes and caused them to fall back about 50 or 60 yards. The regiment, however, speedily recovered and formed into column sooner than he had ever known one formed for parade though perhaps not with equal accuracy.

Some difficulty occurred in forming the platoons in consequence of their having been broken, but their numbers were guessed and wheeled into column with a view to despatch and to facilitate the movement. The whole was accomplished under the particular direction and immediate agency of Brigadier-General Ripley. His exertions to effect it were very great, and no one could be more

active than he was. The whole interval from the moment the fire was received in front until the actual reorganization of the column in readiness to advance did not exceed five minutes. They then marched directly and displayed upon the enemy's flank. While this was performing, Colonel Miller had advanced, pursuant to his orders, against the front, and succeeded in carrying the enemy's battery, consisting of seven pieces of artillery, to wit: two brass twenty-fours and smaller ones. Having passed the position where the artillery had been planted, Colonel Miller again formed his line facing the enemy, and engaged them within twenty paces distance. There appeared a perfect sheet of fire between the two lines. While the 21st was in this situation, the 23rd attacked the enemy's flank, and advanced within twenty paces of it before the first volley was discharged; a measure adopted by command of General Ripley that the fire might be effectual and more completely destructive. The movement compelled the enemy's flank to fall back immediately, by descending the hill out of sight; upon which the firing ceased. Prior to the fire of the 23rd, the enemy were closing in upon Colonel Miller's command, which appeared to be hard pressed, and, as he conceived, was recoiling, the force opposed amounting to about double his number, but, by the prompt aid of the 23rd, the heights were gained and cleared of the enemy. After this was achieved, the 21st and 23rd formed in line by order and under the direction of General Ripley, leaving the batteries which had been carried in the rear. While thus circumstanced, a detachment of the 1st Regiment, which consisted of from 100 to 200, and had remained in the rear, joined them on the heights, and was by General Ripley formed into the line. He could not say what had detained the above detachment so long from the scene of action.

Shortly after the line was formed, General Ripley sent him to ask General Brown whether the captured artillery should not be removed off the field towards Chippawa. The witness met General Brown ascending the hill, and delivered his message. The latter replied there were matters of more importance to attend to at that moment, and he should see General Ripley himself. He appeared highly elated, and rode with him to General Ripley, but the witness did not hear the conversation which passed. The heights thus gained were a very commanding position, and contained all the enemy's artillery, capable of enfilading in every direction. While the second brigade thus occupied on the heights, General Scott's brigade was about three hundred yards distant, and no enemy between them. The firing from it had by this time nearly ceased.

After General Brown's interview with General Ripley, he left

the hill as the witness understood in search of General Scott. The 25th Regiment then joined the second brigade, was formed on the right nearly at right angles to the 23rd Regiment, its left resting on Towson's artillery, and disposed so as to flank the enemy in case they attacked. The artillery under command of Major Hindman and Captain Towson had come up but a few minutes before, in consequence of General Ripley's request communicated by the witness to Major Hindman and complied with by him.

While General Ripley's line was thus formed on the eminence, the enemy advanced upon it in considerable force, out-flanking its right and left, and far exceeding it in numbers. On finding them approaching, General Ripley ordered the brigade to reserve its fire until the enemy's bayonets should touch, in preference to firing first. This was done with a view to observe the flash of their muskets, and take aim by the assistance of their light. The order was obeyed. The enemy advanced within ten or twelve yards of our right, composed of the 23rd Regiment. After receiving their fire, we returned it; the action then became general. A tremendous conflict ensued for about twenty minutes, at the expiration of which the enemy gave way, and again fell back out of sight. We having much the advantage of ground, the enemy generally fired over our heads, but the continual blaze of light was such as to enable us distinctly to see their buttons. An interval of half an hour followed, when the enemy advanced a second time, nearly in the same manner, attacked precisely at the same point, but did not approach so near before the firing commenced. Our left had by this time been thrown forward by order of General Ripley, and the line formed nearly parallel, with the addition of General Porter's volunteers on the left, and General Scott with the three remaining battalions on the right, but the latter were so situated as not to be engaged. The contest was more severe, and, he thinks, longer continued than the last. The same precautions were enjoined by General Ripley with respect to his men reserving their fire, and the reception of the enemy was equally as warm. Some part of our right and left gave way, but our centre, composed of the 21st Regiment, stood firm, with the exception of some platoons which also fell back. The enemy were repulsed, and retired again from the contest. General Ripley, in person, rallied the detachments which gave way on the right, and succeeded in bringing them back into action before the retreat of the enemy. An interval not to exceed three-quarters of an hour ensued, during which all was darkness and silence, scarce interrupted by a breath of air. The men had neither water nor whiskey to refresh themselves after the fatigues they had endured.

The court adjourned to Wednesday, 15th March, 1815, 11 o'clock a. m.

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TROY, March 15th, 1815.

The court convened pursuant to adjournment. The same members present.

The examination of Captain McDonald being resumed, he stated that at the expiration of the interval last mentioned, the enemy advanced a third time, to recover their artillery. It was our impression that they had been reinforced, and this was confirmed by the prisoners who were taken at the time. The advance of the enemy was similar to the two preceding ones, and the fire was again opened by their line. General Ripley's brigade again reserved their fire, as before. The duration and order of the conflict, its result and the retreat of the enemy, were in all essential points similar to the last.

In every attack the the enemy was repulsed. General Ripley made every possible exertion to inspire and encourage his troops, exposed his person during the hottest fire of the enemy, and, as he considered, more than was necessary. The witness several times endeavored to prevail upon him to retire, but without effect. His perseverance was unremitting, sometimes acting as file closer as well as commander. He gave his orders with perfect coolness and deliberation, and attended as far as possible to their proper execution. The witness never knew him more collected.

General Ripley's position was never more than ten or twelve paces in rear of his line. He received two balls through his hat, and his horse was wounded during the several encounters. He, Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas, and the witness, were the only mounted officers of the second brigade.

After the last attack, the second brigade for three-fourths or one-half an hour remained on the hill with very little change of position; its left was perhaps thrown back. In the interim General Ripley dispatched the witness with orders to General Porter to send fifty or one hundred volunteers of his command, directing them to report to Colonel McRae and remove the captured artillery from the heights to the camp on the Chippawa. He delivered the message, saw the volunteers detached and marched on the hill. Owing to there being no drag-ropes for artillery, no horses on the ground, and the guns being unlimbered, it was found impracticable to remove them, and the volunteers were then employed in removing the wounded. Prior to the attempt to remove the captured

pieces he saw no artillery corps on the ground, they having retired in consequence of their ammunition being expended, and some of their caissons blown up by the enemy's rockets and shells.

On the return of the witness after communicating the preceding order to General Porter, preparations were made for the second brigade to retire, agreeable to orders from General Brown, as General Ripley at that time informed him. He also stated that Generals Brown and Scott were both wounded and had left the field. Our army accordingly retired unmolested, and it was his impression at the time that the whole column did not exceed 700 when the retrograde movement was made. It was understood that vast numbers were employed in carrying off the wounded. Others had given out for want of water. When the second brigade marched to the field of battle they met a considerable number of the first brigade returning to camp, some slightly wounded, others carried off by those who were uninjured. Many wounded were left on the ground after the battle; they being scattered over a considerable extent and the night dark, it was impossible to find them. He does not think any wounded of Brigadier-General Ripley's brigade were left, unless those who attempted to get off without assistance and failed.

When General Ripley gave the order for the army to retire, he directed the several commanders of battalions to collect all the wounded, and in the interval before retiring he used every exertion to have this order properly executed.

While the army was moving back and afterwards, he knows of no other measures being taken to furnish horses, supply drag-ropes, and bring off the artillery which remained on the heights, with the exception of the smaller ones, which had been rolled down the hill.

About 12 o'clock at night the army regained their camp. The witness added that the pickets and washing parties were not brought up, nor at all engaged during the action. Shortly after the return to camp, about one o'clock, General Brown directed Brigadier-General Ripley ———

The General Order dissolving the court, which follows, was at this period of the investigation received by the president, and no further testimony was heard.

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The undersigned officers, who served in General Ripley's brigade at the battle of Bridgewater, do certify on honour that the narrative given in the foregoing minutes of Captain McDonald's testimony corresponds with our knowledge and recollection of the conduct of

General Ripley and the operations of his brigade during the action.  
ALBANY, March 17th, 1815.

N. S. CLARKE

Captain and Brigade-Major, 2d  
Brigade.

LIEUTENANT JNO. P. LIVINGSTON,  
Adjutant 23rd Infantry.

JOHN W. HOLDING,

Lieutenant and Brigade-Major  
to General Miller, and Adjutant  
of 23rd Infantry at the Battle  
of Bridgewater.

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**General Order.**

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
4th March, 1815.

The Court of Enquiry, of which Major-General Dearborn is President, which was ordered to investigate the conduct of Brigadier-General Ripley during the last campaign, is discharged from that service.

The Congress of the United States having approved his conduct by a highly complimentary resolve, and the President being pleased to express his favorable opinion of the military character of General Ripley, he will honorably resume his command.

By order,

D. PARKER,

A. and I. General.

*(From Wilkinson's Memoir, Volume I., Appendix X.)*

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**Brigadier-General Miller to \_\_\_\_\_**

FORT ERIE, Sept. 4th, 1814.

SIR,—I improve the opportunity which a short indulgence from duty allows of hastily communicating to you the occurrences of the action of the 25th, and the present situation of the army, which is closely invested by the enemy at this post.

On the 25th, General Scott was detached from our position at Chippawa by General Brown with directions to occupy Queenston. He marched with his own brigade, and in two hours the sound of his musketry informed us that he was closely engaged with the enemy. At this time the 2d Brigade and other corps were quietly

remaining in camp. All immediately marched, without calling in our pickets and other parties, to the support of the 1st Brigade. We found them at the distance of three miles, gallantly supporting a most unequal conflict. Our arrival was a little past sunset, and soon changed the aspect of the field.

The enemy's artillery was advantageously posted upon an eminence commanding the plain. The destruction which it dealt through our ranks suggested the imperious necessity of carrying the height. This General Ripley directed to be done with his own brigade. The 21st Regiment advanced and charged the battery in front; he led the 23d upon their flank—both these regiments were less than 700 men. The movement was performed in the most heroic manner by both regiments, and in a few minutes we found ourselves in possession of the whole park, consisting of seven pieces, and the enemy was routed in every direction. But his line was soon formed in rear of his artillery, and several most desperate charges were made to regain the ground and artillery from which he had been driven. He was repulsed as often as the attempt was renewed, with great slaughter. During two or three charges, the contest was carried on by the 2d Brigade. General Porter soon brought up his command to support it, and Lieutenant-Colonel Jesup with the 25th Regiment also arrived at the same point. The action closed at 11 o'clock, and we found ourselves in complete possession of the field, the enemy having been driven at every point. We remained near an hour, when General Brown ordered General Ripley to retire to camp. This movement was effected in perfect order, but through some unfortunate circumstance, the trophies of our victory, the artillery, were not carried off. As General Brown remained in command upon the field until we retired, I do not consider General Ripley in the least accountable for this neglect, more especially as, I understand, the order was to retire immediately. Some have shown a disposition to detract from the merit of General Ripley, and to charge upon him the commission of all the errors which occurred. I am, however, fully satisfied of his good conduct generally as an officer, as well as of his discernment and ability in the field on this day.

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**Lieutenant John P. Livingston, Adjutant 23d U. S. Infantry, to  
General Ripley.**

SACKETT'S HARBOUR, 6th March, 1815.

SIR,—On the night of the 25th July, 1814, at the battle of Bridgewater, Major Austin, aid to Major-General Brown, gave orders to Brigade-Major Clark and myself to communicate to Gen-

eral Ripley that Generals Brown and Scott were both wounded, and that the command devolved on General Ripley, and that it was General Brown's orders that General Ripley should march the troops from the field of action to the mouth of Chippawa Creek, where the army had encamped previous to the battle, without delay, and if he was attacked in making his retreat he should defend himself. This order we received at the White House about half a mile from where the battle was fought. We accordingly made all haste to inform you of this order, which order Brigade-Major Clark communicated to you, sir, in my presence. Previous, however, to your receiving this order, there were, I should say, ten or twelve wagons going to the field of battle to carry off the wounded. They had arrived as far as the White House when they were ordered not to proceed any further, but to return to camp. I cannot say who gave the order not to proceed any further.

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#### Colonel Hindman's Statement.

After the enemy was repulsed the last time by our troops on the hill, I rode to the rear to bring up my spare ammunition waggons. On my return with them I met General Brown, who gave me orders to the following effect: "Collect your artillery as well as you can, and retire immediately; we shall all march to camp." He observed that we had done as much as we could do; that nearly all our officers were killed or wounded; that he himself was wounded, and he thought it best to retire to camp. I proceeded to execute my orders: the firing had ceased. When upon the hill with the troops, I inquired for General Ripley to communicate the orders I had received. I did not see General Ripley at that time.

Immediately after this I turned my attention to getting off the enemy's brass 24-pounder, and for this purpose detached Lieutenant Fontaine of the artillery with orders to take it from the field, and afterwards ordered Lieutenant Kinneard of the artillery to assist him. I then rode to the bottom of the hill, and after great difficulty procured some horses, and at the same time ordered several waggons to the top of the hill to bring off the wounded. On my return to the gun, some of the waggons having previously reached the hill, I discovered the gun and waggons in possession of the enemy; some of the men and horses were captured. I left the field at the same time. When I reached the troops on their return to camp, Lieutenant Fontaine informed me that I had left him but a few minutes before the enemy charged his little party at the gun.

and made them all prisoners. He escaped by dashing through their ranks on horseback, it being dark.

In my opinion not more than fifteen hundred men could have been collected in our camp for battle on the morning of the 26th July.

J. HINDMAN,  
Brevet-Lieut.-Col., U. S. A.

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#### **Lieutenant Tappan's Statement.**

On the return of the army to camp the corps to which I belonged was stationed at the bridge on the opposite side of the Chippawa, to guard that pass from surprise. Just after dawn of day next morning, the army was put in motion, but the sun had acquired a considerable elevation before our column had taken up a line of march towards the ground occupied by us the preceding night. In this interval justice compels me to say that your exertions were unremitted to arrange, concentrate and precipitate your force upon the enemy with the least possible delay. A variety of causes, however, tended to retard the fulfillment of your designs and wishes, among which the death or disability of many of our ablest officers, the extreme fatigue of the troops, and the dispersed and deranged state of the different corps, may be enumerated. Corroborative of the latter estimation, I shall remark that of the company which I commanded, consisting of forty-five effectives on the field, of which seventeen only were killed or wounded, I was able to muster but nine on the return of our regiment to Chippawa bridge the preceding night.

Having proceeded about half a mile on the Queenston road, I was ordered by General Ripley, in conjunction with Lieutenant Riddle of the 15th Infantry to proceed with our respective commands through the woods on our left, advance towards the enemy, and reconnoitre his position, strength, and movements. His order was executed. On unmasking from the woods we discovered the enemy posted on a height, about a mile in advance of the ground where we left him. His whole battery was planted on an eminence upon the right of the road; his left extended in line, so far as I could see, through an orchard towards the Niagara, by which that flank was undoubtedly protected. His right was in column near the battery, in force apparently more than sufficient, when displayed into line, to extend to a wood difficult to be penetrated. The column and line of the enemy was in British artillery and infantry uniform. I saw no dragoons, (a few videttes and patrols excepted.)

no Glengarrians, militia, nor Indians. The enemy's numbers, which I endeavored to ascertain with as great a degree of comparative accuracy as possible, must have been at least one-quarter or one-third greater than your whole effective force. His position was commanding, his flanks well covered, his centre impenetrable, unassailable, and it would, in my humble opinion, have been an act of rashness bordering on insanity to have attempted an attack on a veteran foe, possessing every advantage excepting zeal, intelligence, and intrepidity.

SAMUEL TAPPAN, 1st Lieut.,  
23d Regt., U. S. Infantry.

#### Report of Captain A. W. Odell.

On the morning of the 25th July, 1814, the American army under Major-General Brown, being then encamped at Chippawa, Upper Canada, I was detailed and assigned to the command of a picket, which, agreeably to the directions I had received, was posted on the lower side of Chippawa Creek near the bank of Niagara River, on the road leading from Chippawa to Queenston Heights, about a quarter of a mile from the encampment.

Between eight and nine o'clock a. m. I discovered a part of the enemy on an eminence near the falls, a mile and-a-half or two miles in advance of the picket. The party was stationary, and continued so during the day; of this I gave immediate notice to the officer of the day. Between twelve and one o'clock, a few of the enemy's dragoons approached very near the picket, and were fired on by some men concealed in advance; and frequently in different directions small parties of the enemy were observable from the picket, of which the officer of the day was informed, who, when he visited the picket, observed that the information he had received was communicated to the General, who ridiculed the idea that the enemy were in force near the falls.

Between five and six o'clock p. m., General Scott, with his brigade, marched past the picket on the road to Queenston. The parties of the enemy in view retired at his approach.

Near the falls and on the ground occupied by the enemy as heretofore mentioned, General Scott's advance were fired on, and a few minutes after the action became general. Captain Spencer, General Brown's aid, rode up and inquired, "Where was the firing?" and when informed returned to camp. Having received orders, I moved with the picket to join General Scott, and not far in my rear was the second brigade under General Ripley. The movements

during the remainder of the battle are detailed in Captain McDonald's testimony which, as far as my knowledge extends, is correct. General Ripley was singularly brave and active.

A. W. ODELL,  
Captain 23d Infantry.

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**Brevet-Major Pentland to General Wilkinson.**

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 16th, 1816.

(Extract.)

General Scott's third position was near a farm to the left of the position, where we halted a short time without firing, Colonel Miller having previously carried the heights and silenced the enemy's battery. We then advanced to Lundy's Lane and were formed in column, left in front, which threw my company into the rear, as it was formed on the right of the 9th Regiment. After being in this situation a few minutes, and before we moved, Captain Spencer, the aid-de-camp of General Brown, rode up to me and observed that with my company I could intercept two of the enemy's ammunition waggons, which had lost their way and was then within our lines. I asked permission of General Scott, who refused, saying there was something of more importance in view, and orders were immediately given to advance, as I thought for the purpose of breaking the left flank of the enemy's line. As soon as we were discovered in passing the church the enemy opened a most destructive fire upon us, which was immediately followed from a different direction, and as I conceived nearly at right angles, which produced a terrible carnage. Being as I was, in the rear of the column, I had an opportunity of seeing the killed and wounded. I cannot tell whether it was Porter's volunteers or Ripley's brigade which fired on us. It was absurd to suppose that any men engaged as long as we had been, without water and nearly exhausted, could stand such a fire; the column was, of course, broken, and fled to a lane on the left, where we were immediately after formed in column, right in front, and advanced a second time. General Scott, Lieutenant Perry, and myself were at the head of the column. We had moved but a short distance when another destructive fire was opened upon us. I was wounded just at the fence, Lieutenant Perry was made prisoner just at my side, and General Scott was wounded in the shoulder.

(*Wilkinson's Memoirs, Volume I., Page 725.*)

**Evidence on Trial of Lieutenant Blake, 11th Regiment, U. S. Infantry.**

Colonel McNeil deposed :

"That on the 25th July General Scott's brigade was ordered out to drive back the enemy, as he supposed. He commanded the 11th Regiment, marched, and soon after passed the Falls of Niagara, near which they received a shot from the enemy, about which time General Scott was making a disposition of his brigade. We were at this time passing a defile, very near where we received the shot. The 22d Regiment, which was in my front, kept nearly a direct course, while the 9th and 11th wheeled on the left, nearly forming a right angle with the 22d Regiment. When the 11th was in the act of wheeling, the 22d broke and ran athwart the 11th and broke several platoons considerably to pieces. I was a little in front where the breach took place; I observed it and wheeled my horse in order to collect the men if possible, but the bushes being so near they gained them, which made it impracticable for me to perform that duty, in addition to which my regiment was under a very heavy fire, and I thought my presence necessary with it. I met Lieutenant Blake, who told me his platoon had broke and fled from him in spite of all he could do. I ordered him to pursue, collect, and bring them back. The 11th Regiment was not engaged when Lieutenant Blake's platoon broke. I was wounded in the commencement of the action and retired from the field. It was then dark. General Ripley's brigade had not then got up.

Captain Crawford deposed :—

"I was Adjutant of the 11th Regiment. After the firing of small arms had ceased, the enemy's cannon continued to fire, and killed and wounded many of our men. The brigade was counted off into eight platoons, and the officers ordered to take platoons without being posted. The 11th Regiment, on the left of the brigade, consisted of thirty men."

Lieutenant Sawyer deposed :—

"Captain Blake's detachment was ordered by General Scott to the right of the brigade, where it commenced a fire upon the enemy; the fire continued until a great proportion of the detachment were killed or wounded."

Lieutenant Thompson deposed :—

"That at the battle of Bridgewater, at the time our brigade was wheeled into line, our platoons on the left of the 11th Regiment, four or five of them, or three or four for certain, broke and fell back into the rear into a piece of woods; that at the time the brigade was formed anew there was a great deal of confusion. There was some difficulty in obtaining commands; there were two

commissioned officers, file closers in the platoon to which I belonged ; the officers were not assigned to their posts, but took them as they could find them."

Sergeant Blake deposed :—

"That in the battle of Briggewater, the 11th Regiment broke and retired through the woods. I got a few men collected. When the prisoner came through the woods and joined me, he had collected more men ; we then marched into the road. We stopped there a short time. We then marched into a field the other side of the road ; we stopped there a short time ; it is impossible to say how long. We were on the move to return back into the road when an officer rode up and ordered us to the field of action. We then proceeded and formed on the right of the first brigade. We opened a fire upon the enemy ; the remainder of the brigade were out of cartridges. I should judge we were engaged twenty-five or thirty minutes. The brigade was then formed into a battalion after the firing had ceased, and counted off into platoons. We remained there until the second brigade passed by. We then wheeled up into open column, and marched some distance. I cannot tell how far, and formed a line by a fence. We remained there some time and received cartridges, wheeled again into open column and marched on to the hill."

Corporal Zabine Hubbard deposed :—

"That he was Corporal of the color guard on the 25th of July, 1814. We met the English army at a place that was then called Briggewater. We were thrown into confusion by their heavy fire, and broke. After being thrown into confusion, I heard Colonel (then Major) McNeil order the prisoner to the rear to collect absconders. This was before we had given any fire to the enemy. We afterwards formed and fought I should say about three-quarters of an hour. I was then wounded and returned to camp. Immediately after I left the line, about thirty-five rods in the rear, I saw the prisoner marching fifty men or thereabouts."

*(From Wilkinson's Memoirs, Volume I., pp. 687-9.)*

#### **Statement of Lieut. Shaw, 1st Regiment, United States Infantry.**

"The regiment landed from the opposite side of the strait, half a mile above Chippawa, 150 strong. The retreat was beating in camp when the first gun was fired, and the regiment marched without music, in consequence of the lateness of the evening. They reached the camp at Chippawa after the second brigade had marched, got to the field of battle in the dark, when the 21st Regi-

ment was engaged, and, advancing through a heavy fire, fell in on the left of that regiment and the right of the volunteers. The 1st Regiment once fell back fifty yards by order, but never retreated or broke. It was so dark that two or three of the British officers mistook the regiment, marched up and were made prisoners."

Brevet-Major Marston, 21st Regiment United States Infantry, stated:—

"That the fire commenced about sunset, while the troops were paraded for roll call."

(*Wilkinson's Memoirs, Volume I., p. 690.*)

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**Memorial of Lieut.-Colonel Robert Nichol to Lord Bathurst.**

(Extract.)

FAIRSTOCK HOTEL, September 24, 1817.

That your memorialist was employed during the whole of the operations before Fort Erie, and led one of the columns to the assault of that place. That he advised the *mode* of attack on the schooners cut out of the harbor of Fort Erie by Capt. Dobbs of the Royal Navy, and furnished and transported seven miles by land the boats employed on that service.

That while laying before Fort Erie he was, on the 19th of August, 1814, sent for by Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon Drummond and informed that the Deputy Commissary-General, (Turquand,) had just reported to him that he had only ten days' flour for the whole force on the Niagara, and knew not where to get a supply till the arrival of Sir James Yeo, who was not expected before the middle of October. Your memorialist told the Lieutenant-General that if he would give him full powers he would ensure him a supply. The Lieutenant-General assented. Your memorialist, by his desire, wrote the authority which he required, which was signed by the Lieutenant-General, and in less than fourteen days all fears of want were removed and the King's magazines were amply supplied by the local knowledge and exertions of your memorialist.

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**General Porter to W. L. Stone.**

NIAGARA FALLS, May 26th, 1840.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your favor of the 9th instant, enclosing a number of the manuscript sheets of your intended biography of Red Jacket, a portion of which contain a notice of

the repulse of a detachment of British troops, under Colonel Bishop, at Black Rock in July, 1813, being the first occasion on which the Indians were actually in battle as auxiliaries of the Americans, and the remainder comprising an account of the movements and operations of the American army under General Brown, from the time of their entering Canada on the 3d of July, 1814, until shortly after the battle of Chippawa, when our Indian allies took leave of the army for their homes, and asking for such remarks, corrections, and additions as may suggest themselves to me and as are due to the truth of history.

While I will cheerfully do what you request in regard to the affair at Black Rock, I will not conceal the satisfaction which the receipt of your communication has given, in so far as it affords me an opportunity of performing an act of justice, too long withheld, due as well to the Indians as to the volunteers engaged in the battle of Chippawa, by offering in a shape and connection, where, with your permission, it will be sure to meet extensively the public eye, a minute account, (so far, at least as the Indians and volunteers were concerned,) of the complicated movements and incidents of that battle, and thus rescue their characters from the charge of cowardice, then made and since continued not without some success, to be urged against them for their conduct on that occasion.

It is to be regretted that we have no fair, intelligent and connected history of the interesting campaign of 1814 on the Niagara prepared by some one whose knowledge of the views of those who conducted it, as well as of its incidents, give him a right to speak, and whose character entitle him to credit, and that aside from the scanty information to be gleaned from the official reports of the day, and some personal altercations which have been thrown on the public with any other view than a faithful record of historical events, we have nothing to which we can resort but a few catch-penny compilations as much entitled, so far as facts are concerned, to the name of romance as history; and I regret to find that you, for want doubtless of other authorities, have been obliged to have recourse to these books for some of your statements, and have, of course, fallen into errors. The only apology for the loss of style and spirit in the narration would be that the facts narrated were within the personal knowledge and observation of the writer, who vouches for their general accuracy. Although the story of the battle of Chippawa is a long one, I cannot but hope that most of the facts introduced, especially in everything that relates to the Indians, will be interesting to the readers of the present day, who, I think, will consider the number and minuteness of its details as necessary to a full understanding and appreciation of the merits of

the several parties engaged, rather than of the effusion of the proverbial garrulity of an old soldier.

On the 1st of July, 1814, General Brown found himself in Buffalo at the head of a force which, in his judgment, would authorize the invasion of Canada, for which the public sentiment appeared to be impatient. The army consisted of two brigades of infantry, under Generals Scott and Ripley, to each of which was attached a most respectable and efficient train of field artillery, the whole in the highest state of discipline and equipment. To these were added, under my immediate command, a regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers between four and 500 strong, a corps of 600 New York volunteers, (100 of them mounted,) then at Batavia, but who joined in Canada immediately after the battle of Chippawa, and between 550 and 600 Indian warriors, including nearly the whole military force of the Six Nations.

General Brown proposed to open the campaign by the capture of Fort Erie, and thence proceeding rapidly down the west side of the Niagara River, reduce in succession the British posts of Chippawa, Queenston Heights, and Forts Missassauga and Niagara, having made arrangements with Commodore Chauncey for the co-operation of his squadron on Lake Ontario in the achievement of the two last objects.

Fort Erie, situated at the foot of Lake Erie, was garrisoned by 170 men and commanded by Major Burke of the British army. Chippawa, 18 miles below, and then the headquarters of the British forces, was commanded by General Rial, who had there and at available distances in his rear an army of about the same numerical forces as that of General Brown and of nearly the same composition, save that his Indian allies numbered about two hundred less.

In order to form any correct judgment of the battle of Chippawa, (of which it is my principal object to speak,) and of the merits and character of its various incidents, a correct knowledge of the localities and position is indispensably necessary. The Chippawa or Welland, the north or left bank of which near its mouth was occupied by the British troops and their defences, is a respectable stream some 150 yards wide and 12 to 20 feet deep, coming from the west and entering the Niagara on a right angle with its course. Street's Creek, where the American army took its position, is a small stream running parallel with the Chippawa and discharging into the Niagara two miles away or south of it. The Chippawa is bordered on the south by a flat, open plain about three-fourths of a mile in breadth and extending for an indefinite distance up stream. In rear of this plain is, or there was, a dense forest of heavy timber of primitive growth, and the ground so wet and so much obstructed

by fallen timber as to render the passage of it by carriages or horses impracticable. The west bank of the Niagara for several miles above is nearly the same with the south bank of the Chippawa just described, with this single difference, that about midway between the Chippawa and Street's Creek, there is, or there was, a strip of woodland which had never been cleared, some quarter of a mile in breadth, extending from the forest to within some 10 or 15 rods of the Niagara, and leaving between it and the bank of the river an open avenue, through which passed the great public highway, thus forming a masque between Chippawa and Street's Creek, by which the occupants of one plain were excluded from all knowledge or observation of what was passing on the other.

On the 2d July, General Brown, General Scott and myself, who was doubtless invited in preference of General Ripley on account of my intimate knowledge of the country, made a reconnoissance of Fort Erie and the upper parts of the Niagara and concerted a plan for the attack of Fort Erie on the same night, or rather the next morning. By this plan General Ripley, with most of his brigade, were to embark in boats in the course of the night and proceed up the lake, so as to make a landing on the British shore some mile and a half above Fort Erie at daylight on the third. General Scott with his brigade was to cross the Niagara through a difficult pass in the Black Rock rapids and make a simultaneous landing at the same distance below the fort, when the two brigades would advance on the fort in such a manner as to prevent the escape of the garrison until the artillery, if it should be necessary, could be brought over from Buffalo to reduce it.

General Ripley departed according to order, but in consequence of a dense fog the pilots lost their course and delayed his landing for some hours after the appointed time. General Scott, however, with his accustomed energy and promptitude, and aided rather than impeded by the fog, made good his landing at the hour and place indicated, and was enabled, by the assistance of Indians and other volunteers who immediately followed him, so to arrange his force as to prevent the escape of the garrison.

The rising sun discovered the British commandant with his officers viewing with their glasses the surrounding scene, a part of which was the continued and rapid transit of boats across the Black Rock ferry, freighted with artillery, horses, and Indian warriors, destined for their destruction. Whether influenced by the appearance of the artillery or of the Indians, who are held in greater terror by European than American soldiers, the commanding officer soon after midday, and rather too soon perhaps to satisfy the claims

of military etiquette, surrendered the post and garrison to the demand of General Scott at the end of a short parley.

On the same evening General Scott with his brigade and Towson's artillery proceeded down the Niagara, and on the morning of the 4th, having on his march driven in some advanced pickets of the enemy, established his camp in the open field on the south side of Street's Creek, two miles above Chippawa. On the evening of the same day (the 4th) he was joined by General Brown and Ripley's brigade, who encamped a short distance to the south of him. In the course of the night of the 4th, I crossed the ferry at Black Rock with the Pennsylvania Volunteers and Indians, and at sunrise marched for the camp, where I arrived at 12 o'clock. On our way down we were met by General Brown about three miles above the camp, who, on his return with us, gave me to understand that the position of the army, (although doubtless the best that could have been selected in that neighborhood,) proved to be a very troublesome and inconvenient one from its restricted limits, there being but about three-fourths of a mile between the river and an almost impenetrable forest, which was swarming with Indians and militia, accustomed to its haunts, from the British camp, and who were constantly firing upon and driving in his pickets; that he had that morning been under the necessity of making an example of one of his officers for suffering his guard to be driven in, and thereby exposing the whole camp to the direct fire of these troublesome visitants; that it was absolutely necessary for the quiet and safety of his camp that these intruders should be dispossessed, and as his troops of the line were ill qualified for this kind of service, he proposed that I should scour the woods with my Indian force, sustained by the volunteers, and drive the enemy across the Chippawa, handling them in such a way as to prevent their reappearance. He assured me, too, most emphatically, that there was not then and had not been since their arrival a single regular British soldier on the south side of the Chippawa, (an account which was probably at that moment substantially true,) but that, to guard against contingencies, he would direct General Scott to cross Street's Creek with his brigade and be ready in the large plain, (which soon after became the battle field,) to sustain me.

The proposition was of course acceded to by me, and when afterwards communicated to the Indians and volunteers received by them with enthusiasm.

By 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the troops having been refreshed from the fatigues of the preceding night and morning, the warriors, many for the first time arrayed in the habiliments of battle costume, and the plan of march and attack settled, I formed the whole corps,

(with the exception of 200, or one-half of the volunteers, who were left in the camp to be employed as occasion might require,) into single line or Indian file half-a-mile in rear of our camp, with the Indians towards the woods, and then marching into the woods in a line at right angles with the river until the whole Indian force was immersed in the forest and leaving the volunteers in the field, I had only to halt by simply facing to the right, form my line of battle looking towards Chippawa, and presenting a front of three-fourths of a mile in length and one man deep. Having placed Red Jacket, in whose intelligence I had great confidence, on the extreme left, I took my station on the margin of the wood, accompanied by Capt. Pollard, a Seneca chief, whom I considered as probably better entitled than any other to the command, Col. Fleming, the Quartermaster of the Indian troops, Lieut. (now Major) Donald Fraser, my aide, and Henry Johnson, my interpreter. I was also accompanied by Major (now Adjutant-General) Roger Jones and Major Wood of the Engineers, afterwards killed at the sortie from Fort Erie, as volunteers, and supported by a company of regular infantry marching in column in our rear as a reserve. The Indians were commanded by their war chiefs, to whom I had in a great measure committed the conduct of the battle and the march, and were placed in front of their respective nations or tribes and some 20 yards in advance of the line of warriors. Having previously sent out several scouts, we commenced our march by signal, and at first proceeded with extreme stillness and caution. The tribes have signals by which, on the discovery of any circumstance requiring consultation or a change of route or action, they convey notice through the whole line with incredible rapidity, and the warriors instantly drop on their faces and remain quiet until new orders are given. Two instances of this manoeuvre occurred on our march, the first unimportant, but the last disclosing to us through the scouts the exact position of the enemy, which was found to be in a range of thick bushes along the margin of Street's Creek. After new orders—changing a little the direction of our route so as to meet the enemy at better advantage—to increase our speed as much as was consistent with the preservation of order in the line, to receive the fire of the enemy, but not return it until it could be done with certain effect, regardless of the fire of others; then to rush upon them with the warwhoop and to pursue, capture, and slaughter as many of them as practicable until our arrival in the open field in front of Chippawa, when we should retire to camp.

We accordingly resumed our march, received the fire of the enemy, and then rushed forward with savage yells, pursued them for more than a mile through scenes of indescribable horror, few

only of the fugitives surrendering themselves as prisoners, while others, believing that no quarter was to be given, suffered themselves to be overtaken and cut down with the tomahawk, or turned upon their pursuers and fought to the last. On the arrival of our advance in the field before Chippawa we were surprised by a tremendous discharge of musketry, and the Indian portion of our line, which was most in advance, was thrown back upon the volunteers and reserve, who for want of equal speed were some distance in the rear. Thinking that this fire might have come from the enemy we had been pursuing, who on reaching the plain had rallied and turned back, I made an effort, and not without success, to re-form my line with the volunteers, reserve, and a portion of the Indians, and, again advancing with caution to the margin of the wood, we found ourselves within a few yards of the British army formed in line of battle and presenting within the same space at least three men fresh from their barracks to one in our attenuated and exhausted line. After receiving and returning two or three fires, the enemy advanced impetuously upon us, when, hearing nothing from General Scott, I gave the order to retreat "*Sauve qui peut,*" and to rally in rear and to the left of General Scott's brigade wherever it could be found.

It seems that General Riall had resolved to make on that day a general attack upon the Americans, and in execution of his purpose had marched his whole force across the Chippawa shortly before I entered the woods, and having sent forward his Indians, militia, and other light troops, (which was the force first met by my corps,) to commence the attack from the woods on our left flank, he formed his battalions on the south side of the Chippawa under cover of the strip of woods which separated the armies, with his artillery on the left near the gorge or public road on the bank of the Niagara ready to act the moment the effect of the flank attack should be developed.

The repulse of my command was thus from the main body of the British army while General Scott was yet on the south side of Street's Creek, with an interval of nearly a mile between us. My error, (if it should not be rather called a misfortune,) was remaining too long under an unequal fire, or possibly in attempting to rally at all, for I lost by it besides other valuable men the three principal officers of the Pennsylvania Volunteers. If the Indians are more obnoxious to the charge of cowardice than the volunteers, by reason of leading them in the flight, they owed it only to their greater speed and bottom in the race, for the volunteers retreated with all the speed they could muster unrestrained by any other consideration than a passing regard to the safety of his immediate companions in

the flight. As to myself, I found I could not gain but little on the British battalions, who were in pursuit, and arrived at Street's Creek the moment that Major (now Colonel) Jesup, whose battalion constituted the left and last formed portion of General Scott's line, had reached his position, having thrown down the fence to enable his troops to pass from the road on the creek into the field, and he had scarcely assumed his post, which he did with great activity and address, before the general conflict between the two parties commenced.

General Scott's brigade received the enemy with the most perfect coolness, and with a simultaneous discharge of musketry, which threw them into confusion and soon caused a retreat towards the rear of the field, where they rallied and again advanced, but were again met by General Scott in the same bold and decisive manner, whereupon they retreated with as much expedition as had characterized their pursuit of the volunteers, until they had crossed the Chippawa and destroyed the bridge.

General Scott followed them around the point of woods, beyond which a further pursuit would have been in the face of their batteries on the north side of the creek, without the possibility of reaching them, by reason of the intervention of the river, where he deployed to the left on the ground first occupied by the British, and placed his men on the ground with their heads to the batteries to escape the effects of their shot.

After the first fire of General Scott's brigade, I discovered a splendid horse, handsomely caparisoned but without a rider, snorting and prancing between the two lines, and endeavoring to escape to the rear of the Americans. He was immediately secured by my servant, and in a few moments I found myself for the first time in the day most comfortably mounted, when, riding to General Brown, I received an order to proceed immediately with the 200 volunteers I had left in camp to the support of General Scott, which I promptly obeyed, and, passing in column round the point of woods soon after him and receiving the fire of the British batteries, took post on his left in the same recumbent position. There we remained half-an-hour waiting the arrival of General Ripley, whose brigade had taken a circuitous route to meet the enemy's right and who enjoyed the luxury of a march through the swamp, when we all retired to camp, and thus ended the battle of Chippawa.

This battle, had General Scott been at hand to support the volunteers when they first met the British line, would doubtless have presented quite a different aspect, although I am inclined to believe the result would have been equally auspicious to the American arms. Why he was not there has never been satisfac-

torily explained to me, although I have never doubted that the omission proceeded from the same conviction in his mind which General Brown had before expressed, "that there was not a regular soldier on the south side of the Chippawa," and that my force was amply sufficient to dispose of the British Indians and militia. The mutual ignorance of the two armies of each other's plans and movements led to mistakes as disadvantageous probably to the enemy as to ourselves. The rapid and fatiguing pursuit by the enemy of our volunteers and Indians with frequent firings, and elated with the idea that victory was already achieved, necessarily created some confusion in their ranks, which was so much increased by the sudden and unexpected reception they met with from General Scott that they could never recover, hastened the termination of the battle, and probably rendered it less sanguinary than if the parties had met more deliberately and with a better understanding of each other's views.

The intimation in a part of your manuscript that most or the whole of the Indians, on their their repulse at Chippawa, fled immediately to Buffalo and were never again seen in the American camp, is totally destitute of foundation. That some few of them, from sheer cowardice and fright, fled at the commencement of the battle to Buffalo without stopping, I have no doubt. It is also true that a considerable number more were supposed by our soldiers, for want of knowledge of an important fact, to have retreated in the early part of the action. When the Indians take a prisoner the captors, with incredible dexterity and speed, immediately lash his hands behind him with his own belt, bear him off to the rear, leading him like a horse by the halter and compelling him to move at a trot. The frequent appearance of these parties, with at least one and sometimes two or three guards to each prisoner, passing rapidly through the fields to the rear, led doubtless to a belief with many that they were all fugitives. But that any considerable number fled until they had met a force so much superior as to render it a duty to retreat, I do not believe. It is certain that a large portion of them remained with the army until the eve of the battle of Lundy's Lane, when most of them withdrew, for reasons which, as will appear in what I have further to say of them, afforded them at least a fair apology. Early in the morning after the battle some 20 chiefs appeared at my tent, each accompanied by a young warrior bearing the scalps, strung on a stick curved in the shape of a hoop, which had been taken on the preceding day, having been informed from some source and believing that a bounty would be paid for every scalp taken from an enemy in battle. I apprised them of the error into which they had fallen, refused to examine or count these

unseemly trophies, and ordered them to be buried or thrown into the river, which was immediately done. For the prisoners they brought in, (amounting to some 15 or 18, and among whom were two principal chiefs, the sons of Dr. Carr and descendants of Sir Wm. Johnson by his squaw wife,) they were allowed a small premium. They then expressed a wish to visit the battle ground to carry off the bodies of their friends who had fallen, which in the hurry of their retreat they had not been able to do the preceding day. This was readily granted, with an understanding that Colonel Fleming should accompany them. In the course of a few hours they returned and reported that they had found and brought in the bodies of, I think, fifteen of their warriors, which they buried in the course of the evening with the honors of war. They reported also that among the numerous bodies of their fallen enemies they had discovered three still living, although mortally wounded, and that they had immediately despatched two of them by cutting their throats, but recognizing in the third, who was burning with fever and suffocating with thirst caused by his wounds, a former inhabitant of one of their own villages, Johnson had gone to a creek, filled his own canteen with water, and after giving it to his countryman left him to die alone. On my reprobating the act of taking the life of an unresisting man as cowardly and unworthy of a warrior, the only reply made by Johnson, and uttered in a manner that denied the consciousness of having done an ignoble act, was: "We know, sir, that it seemed very hard to put these men to death, but we hope you will consider that these are very bad times."

On the march of the army from Chippawa to Queenston, the Indians, whose roving habits it was impossible to restrain, besides committing some depredations on the neighboring farmers, discovered a depot of some 50 barrels of spirits, brandy, and wine, which belonged to the British army, and was concealed by them in the woods on their rapid retreat. These spoils were all taken from the Indians by the Quartermaster of the army without compensation, and caused some dissatisfaction among them, not perhaps without cause so far as regarded the public stores.

About this time a proposition was made by Red Jacket, and approved by General Brown, to send two young chiefs, who were men of prudence and address, as spies to the British Indians, then near the head of Lake Ontario, where they had retreated after the battle of Chippawa, and endeavor to effect a mutual and total withdrawal of all the Indians from both armies. These chiefs after an absence of three days returned and reported that the proposition was favorably received by the very few of the enemy to whom they dared to make their message or themselves known, and that

measures would be taken by the British Indians to effect its object. And this embassy, of which Red Jacket was disposed to make the most, resulted in the retirement a short time before the battle of Bridgewater of nearly the whole of our Indian force, under a promise, however, that in the event of the British Indians appearing again in the field they would immediately return and join the army.

The British Indians did not, however, appear again or give any further annoyance during the campaign, and yet some fifty warriors, among the most distinguished of whom was the brave Johnson, baited by the pleasure of a military life of which they had now tasted, returned soon after to the army and were very useful auxiliaries during the remainder of the campaign, having been confined with the army in Fort Erie during its investment and performed a conspicuous part in the sortie of the 17th September, and were among the first in the enemy's trenches.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

#### **The Narrative of Alexander McMullen, a Private Soldier in Colonel Fenton's Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers.**

During the late war, on or about the 20th of February, 1814, a draft of one thousand men was ordered by Simon Snyder, then Governor of the State, from the counties of Franklin, Cumberland, York, and Adams. Cumberland was to furnish one-half of this quota, and the remaining five hundred was divided among the other counties.

Colonel James Fenton was appointed to command the detachment, and Robert Bull, Lieutenant-Colonel. My brother, James, being of the first class in a company of militia, was drafted for six months. He was 21 years of age and of a delicate constitution. It was thought by a council of the family and friends that it would not do for him to go. My father was at that time an advocate and partisan for the measures of Government, and he then saw the evils of war. I was about two years older and more robust than my brother and offered myself, to which my parents, with some reluctance, consented. The quota from Franklin rendezvoused at Loudon on the 1st of March, 1814. There was two companies of drafts, under command of Captain Samuel Gordon and Jacob Stake, and our company of volunteers under Captain Samuel Dunn. These were all under command of Major James Wood. Wm. McClelland, Brigade Inspector, was to furnish the tents and rations for these companies, but for some reason they were detained, and we remained there for three days amid a continual scene of dis-

sipation. The tents arriving, we commenced our march for Lake Erie on Monday, the 4th, and crossed the North Mountain to McConnellsburg, in Bedford County, where the tents were pitched, straw provided, and we began to assume a military appearance. On Sidling Hill we first heard of the Cumberland volunteers. They had come by the Fannetsburg road. We were a short distance before them at the junction of the roads, an advantage which our officers wisely determined to keep, as by this we were much better supplied with the necessary articles on the road. On the 16th we arrived at Pittsburgh, and, crossing the Allegheny River, encamped on the plains in view of that city. The Cumberland men, coming the next day, encamped on Grant's Hill. Here we received six dollars for three months' pay in advance from the State. The Legislature had granted this in addition to the United States' pay, making altogether ten dollars a month. After a stay of three days we commenced our march for Erie, then a small town, where we arrived after travelling through a deep snow and swampy roads for ten days, with no better beds than hemlock branches and an Indian blanket for a cover. We arrived in tolerable health and fine spirits on the evening of the last day of March, and encamped on a hill east of the village in view of Lake Erie. An old blockhouse stood between us and the lake, and a new one, nearly finished, beside it, with four pieces of brass cannon belonging to the State, making us safe from the enemy on that side. The Cumberland volunteers and the drafts from York and Adams arrived, and the regiment was organized into ten companies of one hundred men each. In a few days dissatisfaction began to appear in several companies, owing to the quality of the provisions. The flour was mouldy and the beef and pork unfit to be eaten.

Desertions began to be frequent, but the offenders, being followed and brought back, were placed in the guardhouse, and generally punished by being marched in front of the regiment to the tune of the "Rogue's March."

About the 20th, Major Marlin with a battalion of regulars took his station at the blockhouses. He was an officer of prepossessing appearance, but of intemperate habits. About this time he made a call on Fenton's regiment for volunteers to go with him to Put-in-Bay to bring the scattered vessels of Perry's fleet and a battalion of regulars commanded by Colonel Campbell. He was furnished with about three hundred men, and set sail for Put-in-Bay in the fleet that had been anchored at Erie during the winter preceding. In about ten days they returned in consequence of bad weather.

Our men, who had not been accustomed to nautical life, were glad to get their feet on solid ground once more. Campbell now

took command of the regulars, who were considerably reinforced, and in the course of a few days planned an expedition to Long Point in Canada. He wanted as many volunteers from Fenton's regiment as he could get. Fenton agreed to go himself, and more than one-half of his men. We embarked in the fleet in the evening, and set sail at dark. The weather was hazy, with very little wind, and next morning we were still in sight and not very far from the American shore. About eight o'clock the wind favored us, and towards sunset we cast anchor at Long Point. The landing of the troops now commenced. A party of British light horsemen waited on the bank till the men came within a short distance of the shore, then fired a volley and galloped off. We remained on the shore of the lake during the night without any disturbance. The next morning crossed a creek which emptied into the lake at this place, and had not proceeded far before they were fired upon by a party of Canadians. The fire was returned, and we took up the line of march for Dover, a small village about three miles from the lake. The situation of this village was pleasant, the houses generally frame, near a beautiful creek with a fine large fulling-mill, grist-mill, and saw-mill. The inhabitants had principally left town on our approach. We were then placed in line of battle, the artillery in the centre, the regulars on the right, a reserve in the rear, and a company, I suppose of observation, some distance off. An order from Campbell to set fire to the houses was now executed by men detailed from all the companies. A scene of destruction and plunder now ensued, which beggars all description. In a short time the houses, mills, and barns were all consumed, and a beautiful village, which the sun shone on in splendor that morning, was before two o'clock a heap of smoking ruins. The women and children had remained in the village and were permitted to carry out the valuable part of their moveable property. A party of sailors appointed to man the artillery killed the hogs in the streets, and severing them in the middle carried off the hind parts, while the head and shoulders were left in the street.

The line of march was now taken up the lake. The army halted about a mile from the lake at the house of a respectable looking German, and as it had been ascertained that the British had no force of any consequence in that neighborhood the men were permitted to stroll from the ranks. A short distance from this house was a pasture lot, in which grazed a fine English cow. Some of us who were farmers had a curiosity to examine this fine animal more closely. This drew a small group together, when a private of Gordon's company fired his musket and broke both her fore legs. The farmer and his family said nothing, afraid, I suppose,

that their own turn might come next, and the officers, taken up in examining some Canadian prisoners, paid but little attention to it.

The sun was setting as the troops re-embarked, and shortly after dark we set sail, expecting to wake in the harbor of Erie, but judge of our surprise in the morning to find that we were not more than a mile from the Canadian shore and four miles from where we started the evening before. The sails were lowered, the fleet stopped and boats manned for shore. A troop of horse, formed on the shore, seemed determined to oppose our landing, but the turning of a long 32-pounder on board the *Porcupine* gun-boat to bear on them, made them gallop off without firing a gun. There was a grist-mill and saw-mill, to which our troops set fire. Orders were then given to re-embark, and the fleet set sail for Erie, where we arrived next evening at dark, generally disgusted with the conduct of Campbell. When we came back to the camp we found that a number of men belonging to several companies had deserted, taking advantage of the absence of the officers. A short time after this a mutiny was set on foot by some designing men, who made the soldiers believe that the field officers and contractors were swindling them by buying up bad provisions at a low price, and that good could be bought if the officers wanted it. Another reason was that they had now been in the service nearly three months and had received but the six dollars from the State, and as we expected in a few days to march to Buffalo and be under the United States' officers, they were told that unless they stood out for their rights then, there would be no use of doing it at Buffalo.

A paper was drawn up and signed by a number, who were resolved not to start without two months' pay. The officers for some reason appeared but little concerned about it. The morning came to start for Buffalo. Preparations were made by those who were not in the conspiracy to start, and leave the mutineers if they were too strong to be forced off. The mutineers had loaded their muskets and had supplied themselves with cartridges, apparently determined not to strike a tent without money. The regiment had been formed, roll called, and wagons all ready to load. Orders were given to strike the tents. About half were struck. The remainder stood, the owners beside them with loaded muskets. Colonel Fenton began to remonstrate, but they treated all he said with indifference. The Adjutant, Thomas Poe, standing beside him, indignant at such conduct, wanted the Colonel to use force, but he declined, and at Poe's request gave him leave to quell the disturbance. The first company, a finely uniformed company of infantry from Carlisle, had been active in the mutiny, but their tents fell before the drawn sword of the Adjutant, and men who appeared

determined to die on the spot, now shrunk like children before one man. The rest followed their example, and in less than an hour the leaders of the mutiny were placed in the blockhouse in irons and the regiment was on its way to Buffalo.

This march was a very pleasant one; vegetation was coming on with great vigor, and the country was fast being settled by respectable and intelligent looking men from the eastern States. After a march of eight days we arrived on the banks of the Buffalo Creek, where we were met by a fine looking band of musicians, who escorted us to the village. This village had been burnt the winter before by the British and Indians. The inhabitants were generally living in sheds of frame lined with rough boards, a temporary protection from the inclemency of the weather. West of the town and between it and the lake was the encampment of the grand army, said to be 2,500 strong. These were commanded by Major-General Jacob Brown. A regiment of artillery was on the northeast. We encamped on the left of the regulars in a piece of bushy ground, which was soon cleared off, making it a beautiful spot, with a fine spring close by the encampment.

Regulations new to us and very strict were now adopted. We rose at 4 o'clock (reveille beat) and answered to our names. We had fifteen minutes to prepare for drill, which generally lasted one hour. Breakfast being over, the regiment was formed, roll again called, guards detailed, and the regiment dismissed for a short time. The Sergeants' drill came next, which generally lasted till eleven o'clock. At two the Adjutant-General drilled, which was then dismissed till nine, when the roll was again called and we retired to rest. The time passed away in this manner, constant exercise, wholesome provisions, and strict discipline soon made our regiment have another appearance.

On the evening of the third day of July the regulars left their camp and marched down to the Niagara River, crossed during the night and surrounded Fort Erie, which surrendered the next day. There was but one battalion in the fort and two companies of artillery. These were brought to Buffalo and from thence sent to Greenbush in the State of New York, escorted by Captain Alexander's company of infantry. We crossed on the 5th. Some out of each company refused to go, and some of their comrades were detailed to bring them by force, which we found to be no easy matter, as they had taken possession of an old battery and stood in their own defence. They were about eighty strong. A treaty was now commenced, and about twenty of them with their leader agreed to come over. The rest we left, our commander wisely considering them of little consequence. The next morning we marched

for Chippawa. The regulars had started the day before. About two o'clock we halted about two miles from the creek, where a large body of Indians of different tribes were preparing to go out on a scouting expedition. One of their chiefs in a speech, which for gesture and strength of lungs I had never heard equalled, was preparing them for bloody deeds. Volunteers were now called for from Porter's brigade. The Indians had started towards a pine wood back of the fields, where we halted. Having lost my sleep the night before—I had, like a simpleton, lent my musket to Lieut. Dick—and lying down in a fence corner, fell fast asleep. In a few minutes the sharp crack of the Indians' rifles waked me. The noise was increased by the quick discharges of cannon and musketry. I ran to Major Wood, who was forming the regiment, and asked him what they were doing. "Fighting!" was the answer, "Fall into the ranks."

I now felt my situation, without gun or cartridge box. I ran to the bank of the river, where a boat was lying which had brought the baggage down the river, and solicited a gun, which after some difficulty I obtained, and soon joined our company. Just at this time I saw the Indians and some of the volunteers flying across the fields towards us. They had received a warmer reception than they expected.

Shortly after they crossed into the woods they came on a party of Canadian Indians and militia, who fired on them. The fire was returned and the Canadians fled towards the bridge, our volunteers in full pursuit. A number of the Canadian Indians and their militia lost their lives in this running fight. Approaching the bridges, they met the British army. A retreat now commenced, with the Canadians and some British regulars in full pursuit. In this retreat Robt. McClelland, a very respectable man of our company, lost his life. Almost all the companies of our regiment lost some men.

By the time the regiment came in view of Chippawa Creek the battle was over and the British retreating across the bridge. A number of killed and wounded lay on the plains where the army had fought. We marched past them towards the bridge, saluted by the cannon balls from the British works at Chippawa, which to us militia was a new but not a very pleasant sight.

After keeping us a considerable time in front and exposed to the cannon of the British works, we were marched back to our camp. That evening we were joined by a company of Canadian volunteers who had entered the service of the United States.

The next morning the dead of both armies were buried. The killed and wounded amounted to six or seven hundred, of which the greater part belonged to the British. Colonel Robert Bull,

second in command, Major Galloway and Captain White, were taken prisoners, besides a number of privates.

About twelve o'clock a number of men of different companies were detailed to take the prisoners, who were all wounded, up the Niagara in boats to Buffalo. I was one of this party. The navigation of this stream up the river is very difficult and laborious. It was dark by the time we got eight miles, and as we were very tired we landed opposite a house on the shore to rest till morning. The owner had left this when the army came down the river.

As some of the men were slightly hurt and we in an enemy's country, a sentinel was set to watch the boat. About midnight my turn came. The moon gave but little light, and the prisoners and our men were all laying quiet, when the sound of footsteps within a few paces startled me. I turned hastily around and saw a large Indian, who when he saw my musket presented called out, "Don't shoot!" He proved to be one from our own side on his road to join the army.

The next day we arrived at Buffalo, where we were detained for eight days, when we returned to join the army, who were encamped at Queenston below the Falls of Niagara.

The river at this town is narrow and very deep. Above the town was a steep hill, called Queenston Mountain, on the top of which was a fort where the volunteers and Indians were encamped. The New York volunteers having joined us, we were formed into a brigade, commanded by General Peter B. Porter. After a march to the neighborhood of Fort George, where we remained two days, we returned to our former camp at Queenston.

On our march up the river, when we came in view of Queenston Heights we discovered a number of the Canadian militia, who had taken possession of our former encampment. On our approach they began to move off. We pursued them for some miles. Being on a flanking party with others our route was principally through the woods. We returned in the evening with eight prisoners, most of them officers.

Next day we marched to Chippawa and encamped. There was preparation making to march to Burlington Heights, but on the evening of the 25th July intelligence was brought that the enemy were in pursuit of us and coming up the river below the Falls. General Scott with his brigade went to meet them, and gave them battle about three miles from the camp. The second brigade of regulars, under General Ripley, hastened to his support, and the contest became warm and bloody. The enemy's artillery being taken about the time we of Porter's brigade arrived on the battle ground, the enemy reinforced and came down the hill directly

front of us. The brigade was just formed into line, and I heard the voice of Porter saying to us, "Show yourselves men, and assist your brethren!" when showers of musket balls came over our heads like a sweeping hail storm. We returned the fire from the whole line of the brigade. The firing was now kept up from both sides with great spirit, but it was soon evident that there was a great advantage on our side. The ground the British occupied was considerably elevated, which exposed them to the elevation that a musket ball will take in going any considerable distance, while their balls were passing high in the air over our heads. At length the call from the officers to cease firing and march forward was obeyed. I had twenty rounds of cartridges in my box when I went to the battle ground, and when the firing ceased on examining my box I found that the last was in my musket. Cartridges and flints were now hastily distributed along the line, and our brave brigade, blackened with powder, marched forward toward the top of the hill to drive the enemy from his position there. In our march we passed over the dead and dying, who were literally in heaps, especially where the British had stood during the battle.

When we arrived at the top of the hill we came to a thicket where an old fence had been. Crossing this disordered the line considerably, and when through it we found ourselves within a few yards of the British, who were strongly reinforced and returning against us. A death-like silence for a few moments prevailed, and both armies stood still. One of the British officers asked in a hoarse voice if we had surrendered. There was no answer to this question. He asked again. Lieutenant Dick told him that we *never would* surrender. The Canadian company on the right began to falter, and, firing irregularly, the whole body fled back over the fence, the British complimenting us with a shower of musket balls.

A number were killed and others were wounded in this tumultuous retreat. Running about fifteen or twenty rods we thought ourselves out of danger, and several of us at the request of the officers stopped and were formed into line.

Col. Nicholas had joined us that evening with a regiment of regulars, who had been kept in reserve, but now by skilful manœuvres placed themselves between us and the British and kept up a destructive fire upon them until they fell back, and the firing ceased. A murmur which ran through the ranks of the volunteer companies, who were contending for places in the rear, and the groans of the dying was all that was heard for some minutes.

The shattered remains of the brigade being formed, we were marched to the right of the line and near the edge of the precipice

of the Niagara Falls. The cannon that had been taken from the British was at this place. We were formed in order of battle.

This to me was one of the most trying moments of my life. Being warm during the engagement I had opened my vest and shirt collar, and now the night air chilled me. Death, the common lot of all mankind, is generally feared the nearer it approaches us. I felt my situation to be an awful one, and I did sincerely wish that the British army, who were on the hill in view of us, might not come down to commence the engagement again. The British army retiring, our company with others were ordered to haul the cannon taken from the British and tumble it over the precipice. We hauled one and sent it over the precipice into the river.

We then went back and were ordered to haul another, but being tired out and half dead for want of water, the most of our faces scorched with powder, we refused to do any more, and our officers led us back to our place in the lines.

A retrograde march back to the camp now commenced, the volunteers in front and the regulars in the rear to cover the retreat. When we arrived at the camp a number of men who had run off from us during the engagement came back and wished to fall into ranks, but were ordered off by Lieutenant Patton, who had now command of the company. The next thing was to make a speech to us.

He began by saying he was surprised at us for not standing our ground at the bush fence. If the whole brigade had fled, (as they actually did,) Gordon's company should have stood firm.

This was too much. We believed that we had done all that men could do, and this was our thanks. We broke loose on him with a volley of insulting language. He, standing in front of us, with a smile told us we were dismissed, and might go to the river and get drunk on the water.

I now learned that ten of our company were wounded. There was a number killed in every company but ours. Thomas Poe, the Adjutant of the regiment, was mortally wounded. He was my full cousin, a man of fine talents, a brave and meritorious officer, and treated us like a brother.

The next morning a scene of distress presented itself to my view, which I hope I may never witness again. I started early to see Thomas Poe, hearing he was lying in a house at Chippawa, a short distance from our camp. Calling at some of the tents as I passed along, I found that nearly all of them contained one or more wounded men, their clothes covered with blood and they were suffering severely. John McClay, the Quartermaster, was wounded by a musket ball which cut him across the forepart of the head and

cracked his skull. He was lying on his back, his face in a gore of blood. The strange, wild look and the deep groan he gave just as I entered drew a smile from me; so accustomed do men become to blood that they feel but little sympathy for their fellows.

Coming to the house at Chippawa, I found Thomas Poe lying on a blanket. He reached his hand to me and told me that he was mortally wounded, that he had but a few moments to live, and told me that he wished to be buried on the American side of the river.

The army at this time was on its march and passed the house, going to attack the British. I had no wish to go with them as I had become satisfied the previous day, and, the officers telling me to stay and attend Poe, I stood in the door and with sorrow watched the shattered remains of only twenty-five out of the hundred that had left Franklin County as with slow and melancholy steps they were returning to the scene of action. In a short time the whole body returned, as it was found that the British were strongly reinforced and were preparing to attack us. Our troops had suffered severely the night before; especially one regiment that the evening before had paraded four hundred men now had but eighty-eight. Added to this, Major-General Brown, the commander, and Brigadier-General Scott, who commanded the first brigade, were both wounded, and the provisions were also destroyed. Lieutenant Campbell, a number of regulars and myself carried the wounded Thomas Poe to the crossing place. Carrying him nearly a mile across a plain, in the middle of the 26th of July, appeared to exhaust what little strength he had left. I put him in a boat in care of Lieutenant Dick and his waiter. He shook hands with me for the last time. He said to me in a weak voice: "Alexander, you will never see me again in this world." He expired in a few minutes.

Loading the remaining part of the wounded now commenced, and there were at least forty two-horse wagons loaded with these unfortunate men. Their sufferings in this mode of conveyance seemed to be dreadful and their groans were distressing. I was now attacked with a high fever and violent headache, and had to give up my musket and knapsack and take a seat in a wagon, but the jolting almost deranged me. I then attempted to walk, but finding my strength failing and being behind our regiment, I lay down in front of a house in despair, not caring what became of me. The regulars passing at this time, one of their officers assisted me to rise and made one of his soldiers support me for a short distance. I then felt better, and was able to walk without support. It was now dark. We came to a watch-house opposite the village of Black Rock, and I went into it. The night was cloudy and had the

appearance of a storm. There were a number of stragglers here from different companies, and we all lay down on the floor and I soon fell asleep, but an officer of the regulars with some men soon ordered us out. He sent some of his men to conduct me to the meadow where my company was. He gave me a blanket, and I was compelled to lie down in a high fever just as the rain began to come down in torrents. This of all nights I had ever spent was the most dreadful.

In the morning I found myself lying in the water two inches deep. I was so weak that I could scarcely walk.

I now went with the company to Fort Erie. This was a small fort of sods, in which there were many men at work digging and carrying sods to raise the fort higher and repair the bastions.

My messmates insisted on me going across the river until I got better. An application was made to General Porter, and I crossed into the United States, after having been in Canada nearly two months.

I went to the hospital, and Lieutenant Dick, Pete Keefer, Wm. Edwards, and myself got a tent by ourselves. Some time passed, when the British crossed the river and attacked a small body of Kentucky riflemen.

The main body being at Fort Erie, we left Buffalo and went about two miles to an Indian town belonging to the Seneca Indians, who had removed to another about two miles from this, which also belonged to them. The situation of the first mentioned village was pleasant, the houses of one-story and about sixteen feet square, with a porch in front the whole length of the house. A beautiful meadow, orchards and small fields of wheat surrounded the village. There appeared to be about twelve acres cleared land. The Indians had left this village a short time before in consequence of some of their people catching the smallpox. They supposed that it belonged to the village, and left it, with all their furniture and rush mats, which was their bedding.

Staying here one night and part of a day, we learned that the danger was over. The British, 1,100 strong, attempted to cross a small creek. The riflemen had thrown up a breastwork of logs within point blank shot of the ford, and being excellent marksmen and veterans, the British found it no easy matter to cross the creek, and after several ineffectual attempts re-embarked, having lost many killed and wounded. The rifle regiment lost but few, being protected by their breastworks.

My companions now left me. The physician said my disease was the dumb ague. I had a high fever during the night, but during the day was able to walk about, though very weak.

The hospital was intended for the sick and wounded of Porter's brigade. The superintendent and his assistants were from the Pennsylvania Regiment. I suppose there might be sixty of us here generally, though I never saw a list.

After leaving the hospital I took quarters in the jail in Buffalo, which was at that time used as a storehouse.

The noise of repairing old muskets, firing, &c., at this place almost distracted me with headache. Lieutenant Dick procured board for me at the house of a respectable widow named St. John, three miles from Buffalo. Her husband had died some years before, and left her five children to support. They had some property in Buffalo, where they had kept tavern, but during the preceding winter the British had destroyed it all except one small frame house which they left her. I received all the kindness I could ask. Our life was economical in the highest degree, and I believe was a great means of restoring my health. In a few days I visited Buffalo and saw such of our company as were in the hospital. I had the company of Major Wood and Adjutant Kean, a New Yorker, and I soon began to feel at home.

*(From MSS. of W. H. MacMullen, Crete, Pa.)*

## ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS.

(Copies of the following documents were not obtained in time to permit of arrangement in their proper chronological order.)

### General Porter to Governor Tompkins.

ALBANY, March —, 1814.

SIR,—The spirit recently manifested by the Assembly towards the bill for raising volunteers, I presume has destroyed all your hopes of its passing in any useful form, and that Your Excellency will now proceed to raise a corps upon the plan heretofore suggested to and approved by the Secretary of War. Should I undertake the command (which your partiality has offered me) of this corps, it would be with great hesitation and diffidence of my own capacity. But I should be highly reprehensible to enter on so important a command with a force which is in my opinion inadequate, or even with a force sufficient in point of numbers yet so inefficient in its organization, or so badly provided, as not to give confidence of success.

The man who marches to the Niagara frontier at the head of 2,000 volunteers must command success or he will return disgraced, and he that is so ambitious of distinction as to be willing to venture upon this delicate ground, without knowing how he is to be supported, and without being able to make some reasonable calculation of what he ought and what he is able to effect, will verily merit disgrace.

The force which has been authorized by the Secretary of War is, in my opinion, sufficient for and well adapted to the military objects that are likely to present themselves on that frontier. But it should be recollected that it is quite as small as a just prudence will warrant, and that it should be so disposed, organized, and provided as to give it all the efficiency of which it is susceptible. The volunteers, regulars, and Indians should form a consolidated and not a co-operating army. The commanding officer, whoever he be, (although if he deserves his place, he ought to pay great respect to the opinions of his principal officers on all important questions,) should be able to order and not be obliged to request obedience to his measures.

A number of the Republican members of the Legislature from the West, desirous to protect the frontier and to avoid the trouble and inconvenience of reiterated drafts on the militia, and if possible to turn the tide of war in that quarter, propose to meet this even-

ing on the subject of raising a volunteer corps. They have invited me to attend, and will present to you the result of their deliberations. I find that all with whom I have conversed are of the opinion that two or three thousand volunteers can be raised for one year's service, but liable to be discharged at the pleasure of the Government.

Should you conclude to authorize a force of this description permit me to suggest :

1st. That the principal officers be now assigned and repair to the different stations in the western district for the purpose of recruiting, and with orders on a given day with their recruits to march to some common place of rendezvous.

2nd. That a suit of clothes for each recruit be sent immediately to Canandaigua, to be delivered on their arrival at the place of rendezvous.

3rd. That orders be given immediately to raise and organize the Indian corps, and that clothing and blankets be also provided for them.

4th. That one mortar and three of the 18-pounders mounted on field carriages now in the arsenal at this place be sent to the westward while the roads are good. They will not be wanted in the first operations of the army, but may become indispensable to the reduction of Fort Niagara.

5th. Orders should be given as soon as practicable for constructing 30 or 40 boats, and a liberal discretion committed to the commanding officer in respect to this and all other contingent expenses which may become necessary to the successful operations of the troops. It is presumed, however, that the staff lately assigned by the Secretary of War to this station will have been charged by him with the disbursement of these incidental expenses as well as with the supplying the necessary wants in arms, ammunition, provisions, camp equipage, &c.

Permit me to repeat what I have before intimated to Your Excellency, that if it be thought proper to assign me to such a command, I would cheerfully undertake it, and no exertions on my part should be wanting to make it successful. But if, as has been indistinctly insinuated, a young officer of the regular army is to be promoted to take command of this force after the trouble of raising and organizing it is completed, I trust in your friendship and ingenuousness to apprise me of it and relieve me of the unpleasant consequence of such a measure. It is impracticable that I should now take exception to the preference given to a man of more military acquirements than I can pretend to.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**General Peter B. Porter to the Secretary of War.**

CANANDAIGUA, March 27, 1814.

SIR,—The authority which you transmitted to the Governor of this State in February, to raise a corps of volunteers, was not exercised (for reasons probably much better known to you than myself,) until about the middle of this month, on the 17th of which I received his order assigning me to the command, and immediately repaired to this place to take measures for executing it. I take the liberty of enclosing you an address signed by myself and General Swift of this county, (a soldier of the Revolution and one of the bravest and most enterprising men in the country,) who has also been assigned to a command. It would be impracticable to raise this force in a shorter period than a month, and the time has been extended on account of an important election, in which the volunteers themselves will feel so strong an interest. The militia have been so much harassed and so often disgraced that it is impossible to predict what will be our success. Present appearances, however, favor the hope that the whole corps will be completed for the appointed time.

I need not tell you, sir, how much I have at stake in the good conduct, discipline, and successful operations of this corps; and the honor of the Government, so far as it is affected by the character of this force, is identified with my own. The volunteers who engage will well understand what is expected of them, and I believe they will not disappoint our expectations. They will not be controlled by *constitutional* scruples. But we can do nothing without the munitions of war, and I rely with perfect confidence on the foresight, promptitude, and energy which characterize your measures for the necessary supplies of arms, ammunition, camp equipage, &c., &c. It is desirable that the volunteers should be in *uniform*, a circumstance which adds greatly to their ambition. A summer uniform furnished by the public would cost but little and might be deducted from their pay or allowance in lieu of clothing.

Permit me to repeat to you my belief in the expediency of engaging an *Indian* force. The warriors in this quarter, exasperated by the late barbarities of the enemy, are impatient to take up the hatchet. They should be furnished with blankets, shirts, shoes, and a small quantity of cloth for leggins.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**General Peter B. Porter to Governor Tompkins.**

CANANDAIGUA, March 27th, 1814.

SIR,—I arrived here four days ago. Have seen General Swift, who readily accepted and appears much gratified with the offer you authorized me to make him of a Brigadier's commission in the corps of volunteers. He has, agreeably to your suggestion, united with me in an address to the inhabitants, of which I enclose you a copy. His name will be of great service with a certain class of people, and he will use all his exertions to get up the force and to apply it to the most effective and honorable service; the more hazardous the more acceptable to him.

You will perceive we have appointed the general rendezvous of the recruits on the first day of May. It would be scarcely possible to accomplish a work of this magnitude in a much shorter period, and political considerations, which at this crisis are certainly of considerable moment to the volunteers themselves, have influenced me in choosing that day rather than a week earlier. I hope you will be satisfied with this as well as the other detailed instructions in the address.

General Hall has lately called out another detachment of 1,000 men. They marched from here about a week ago to relieve Col. Davis's Regt. I am told he has it in contemplation to make a requisition shortly for 1,000 more to replace another regiment detached subsequently to Davis's. I shall set out for his camp in the morning. It is probable that your order for raising volunteers, together with the approach of General Brown (whose advance has this moment arrived a second time at this place, but of whose marches and counter-marches I do not pretend to understand the object,) may dissuade him from carrying this measure into effect. It will be impossible for me to say at this time what will be our ultimate success in raising volunteers. Judging from present appearances I *conjecture* we shall nearly, if not quite, complete the corps by the appointed day.

Your Excellency will readily perceive how much I have at hazard, not so much in the enlisting as subsequently in the appearance, the discipline and successful operations of these troops. You may rest assured that no exertions of mine shall be wanting to render them useful and creditable to the State and to its commander-in-chief. The means of doing this are not within my control but must depend entirely on you. It is important that the supplies of arms, ammunition, camp equipage, &c., &c., should be ready for them by the time they are promised, and I sincerely hope that uniform clothing may also be furnished. The commandant of the corps should be entrusted with some discretion at least, to points of

minor consideration, and I must beg that you will forward me some general instructions.

Am I authorized by anything you have written to General Hall to enlist the militia under his command? If not, I must require Your Excellency to transmit that authority to me, as it is *possible* he may not be disposed to give me a very cordial support.

Capt. Stone is very desirous of raising a troop of *cavalry*; and if you shall approve the measure I shall thank you to authorize me to change the proposed company of mounted riflemen into a company of cavalry. The reasons in favor of this exchange are that the cavalry would be sooner raised, probably in five or six days. There are, I am informed, 100 pairs of pistols and other equipments now in the arsenal at this place, which will not otherwise be employed, and there will probably be a deficiency of rifles. Besides, as our mounted men will not be sufficiently numerous to perform any important service as infantry, a company of cavalry might answer our purpose better.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Jacob Dox to General P. B. Porter.**

WILLIAMSVILLE, April 6th, 1814.

SIR,—Since your departure, I have had a conversation with General Burnet, on the subject we conversed on previous to your departure from this place. He was not at any time opposed to the plan of volunteering instead of drafting, but, as I mentioned to you at that time, he was fearful it would not be effected, as no officers were particularized to commence the recruiting, but the mode pointed out in your address, obviating that difficulty, he has never entertained the least idea which would operate against, but on the contrary has given opinions which tend directly to promote the object in view. Should the whole corps be raised and the commander-in-chief honor him with an assignment, he will cheerfully and with alacrity accept it. Should this take place he will wish me to continue with him. But if not, I wish to enter the corps under your command, and accept of a station. I wish it to be an active one, and not so uncomfortable as one in the line. I wish you would consider this letter as *confidential*, and if my wish cannot be effected by having me placed in a desirable situation, I trust this subject will be confined to your own breast, for I assure you none of my friends are in the least acquainted with the application, and it might produce on their part a desire to frustrate it owing to my business

at home, as well as ingenious remarks of enemies in case of a non-appointment, and ensuing mortification.

We remain as yet here, peaceable and quiet, undisturbed by the enemy and likely not to disturb them. The militia will be discharged by companies on Saturday and the following day until the whole frontier will, as it were, remain defenceless until the regulars take our present or more advanced station.

*(From MSS. of Hon. Peter A. Porter.)*

### General Order.

The term of service of the regiments of detached militia commanded by Lieut.-Colonels Harris and Dobbin, being about to expire, the Major General orders their discharge from the service in the following order :

The regiment commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Harris by companies, on such days as Lieut.-Colonel Harris shall direct.

• The regiment commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin by companies, on the following days ; on Saturday, the 9th inst., the companies commanded by Captains Spencer and Dunn, and on the 11th those commanded by Captains Woodworth and Swan.

The good conduct of the officers and men composing these regiments during the fatigues and privations of the winter campaign has been such as to merit the warmest praise from the General and their fellow citizens. The zeal and activity of the officers, the patient endurance of hardships and subordination of the men, have sufficiently proven that they are capable of performing the important duty of soldiers, and that they are worthy of the confidence of their country.

It is a subject of much regret that those who have left their employments and endearments of domestic life for the defence of the State, in the most inclement season of the year, should not meet the pecuniary reward which the laws of our country allow them, and which they had every reason to expect from Government. The Major General assures the officers and men that he has not omitted to give seasonable information respecting the situation and demands of the troops under his command, and to request an early attention to their first claims, with as much earnestness and plainness as was consistent with the respect due to superiors. His exertions shall be continued to procure justice for his fellow citizens, who have established so good claims to his respect and the gratitude of their

country. A consciousness of having done their duty, and the best wishes of the Major General for their future prosperity and happiness, accompany each officer and soldier of these meritorious corps to their homes.

By order of Major General A. Hall, Comd'g.

WM. H. ADAMS,

*Acting A. D. C.*

*(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, April 12, 1814.)*

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**General Porter to Governor Tompkins.**

CANANDAIGUA, April 8, 1814.

SIR,—

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Several British vessels have already been seen on Lake Ontario. The deposits of public property at Genesee River and Sodus would in my opinion render it prudent to guard each of them at present by a small force. A company of volunteers will be raised near each of these and will serve as a guard so long as they remain there. But permit me again to recommend the expediency of authorizing the call of 100 militia to each of these places on the removal of the volunteers in case the measure should *then* be warranted by the probability of an attack.

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The British force on the Niagara Station is estimated at 2600—3000 men. General Brown is near Batavia and very anxiously expecting the volunteer and Indian force. He has lately received a letter from the Secretary of War, which has relieved him from the embarrassment caused by some doubt as to his instructions of the particulars, of which he says you are informed.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

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**General Porter to the Secretary of War.**

CANANDAIGUA, April 8, 1814.

SIR,—I was much pleased to meet Mr. Parrish a few days ago at Buffalo, with your instructions to the warriors of the Six Nations. We held a council with the chiefs of that village on Sunday last. After deliberating a short time, the principal chief, *Red Jacket*, informed us that it would be deemed arrogant in the few then assembled to undertake to answer for the whole Six Nations propositions of so much moment. That they would immediately send

runners with your *Talk* to the chiefs and warriors of the distant villages, ascertain their wishes and communicate the result to us at this place in eight or ten days, and that he had no hesitation in giving his *individual* opinion that your offers would be acceded to.

As you have thought proper to attach the Indian corps to my command, (a circumstance that is gratifying to me,) you will permit me to make some enquiries and suggestions respecting them.

There are from 6 to 700 warriors of the Six Nations residing in this vicinity. Mr. Parrish is of opinion that as many as 500 will offer their services. Shall we be permitted to take *all* the effectives who offer, although their number exceed 400—the force originally contemplated?

A considerable proportion of the warriors have good rifles of their own. Muskets are of little use in their hands, and even if we had rifles to supply the whole, *their own*, to which they have been accustomed in hunting, would be much better. Shall I be authorized to assure them that if they bring their own rifles they shall be allowed a fair compensation for the use of them, and in case of loss by unavoidable accident the value of them, to be previously ascertained?

To make this force efficient, it should be well organized and a few *white* officers, acquainted with their language and manners, should be attached to it to ensure a proper understanding and concert of operations. They would be jealous of a direct command, but this difficulty may be avoided by assigning them a staff, (which is as indispensable to them as to any other corps,) the officers of which would have a proper control over them—say a principal agent, an adjutant or inspector, a quarter-master, a commissary and a few assistants, with such rank and pay as may be thought proper. Will you be pleased to give me some instructions on this subject? Mr. Granger's state of health may possibly discourage any wish which he might otherwise have to take the field in person. Mr. Parrish is a man of great vigor of body and mind, and if he would enter heartily into the business, as he at present appears disposed to do if invited, would be of great service in collecting and organizing the Indians, and afterwards in conducting them to the field. I have already mentioned to you that the Indians will want some articles of clothing.

My prospects are very flattering as to volunteers. The only discouraging circumstance is that the pecuniary inducements offered them are much less than those offered to other troops. I am not without hopes, however, that we shall raise the *whole* corps.

Colonel Jenkins, I presume, will have been instructed to furnish the necessary tents and other camp equipage, &c. Major Noon is now at this place, but I am fearful he may be ordered away. We cannot move without an efficient quartermaster.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**General Peter B. Porter to Captain W. R. Rochester.**

CANANDAIGUA, April 10th, 1814.

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Our prospects at present exceed our most sanguine anticipations a fortnight ago. We shall probably raise four companies in this county, and many more in proportion to numbers to the west. We understand that they are recruiting in almost every county from this to Albany. I should be highly gratified to have you raise a company in Steuben, which I believe you could do sooner than any other man. We expect that about 500 Indian warriors will be attached to our corps. Captain Parrish and I held a council with the chiefs at Buffalo last week, and we have strong assurances that they will all turn out.

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(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**General Jacob Brown to General Peter B. Porter.**

(Confidential.)

WILLIAMSVILLE, April 17th, 1814.

DEAR GENERAL,—You have seen General Hall's General Order. Such a production would break an officer in the regular service. It is our duty and I suppose the duty of every officer to endeavor to give character and strength to the Government and country. Any attempt on the part of a person that the Government has authorized to wear a sword to destroy all confidence in that Government appears to me to be a high military offence.

General Hall stated to me that it was impossible to retain the militia in service. He had discharged the whole of those that were at this place before my arrival, notwithstanding I had particularly desired him to retain the last draft, if those whose time of service had expired could not be prevailed on to stay.

You will consider *whatever* I may say to you on military subjects as confidential, as I desire to conceal nothing from you.

No orders have yet reached me from the Secretary of War. But I know that he is well pleased with the *mistake*, and I do not doubt but the necessary arrangements will be made for crossing a little below Long Point, (with the aid of our flotilla on Lake Erie,) and by turning the enemy's position attacking them in rear. Of this, more when I see you.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

### General Peter B. Porter to General Brown.

CANANDAIGUA, April 21, 1814.

SIR,—The bearers are three young warriors of the Seneca nation on their return from Canandaigua, where they were sent to obtain some explanations from Mr. Parrish and myself relative to the late *Talk* of the Secretary of War, and are to report our answer to a council of chiefs now sitting at Buffalo. Before the council is dissolved they are to make a final decision on the propositions of the Secretary, which I presume will be to accede to them, and we have requested them to put themselves in a state of complete preparation so that they may assemble at a day's notice.

The Onondagas and Oneidas have lately held a general council and agreed that they will all turn out and assist their *white* brethren to drive the British from our *Island*. The result of the council was transmitted to this place by a delegation of warriors, and will be conveyed by the bearers hereof to the Senecas at Buffalo.

My prospects as to volunteers are yet promising, but I cannot calculate with any certainty on the number that will be raised.

My opinion of General Hall's valedictory order agrees with yours. I had no doubt that he possessed the dispositions manifested in this order, but I had hardly expected to see them exhibited in this way.

I entirely concur in the policy of the measures intimated in the latter part of your letter, and, as you wish, shall consider it strictly confidential.

P. S.—It is customary to give provisions to the Indians when assembled on public business, especially if convened at the request of the Government. As Mr. Granger, (the agent,) is now absent, I presume you will order bread and meat to be issued to the chiefs now at Buffalo. The bearers will probably be out of provisions by the time they arrive at Williamsville.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**General Jacob Brown to General Peter B. Porter.**

HEADQUARTERS,  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, April 29th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I arrived at this post the night of the 24th. The enemy's fleet has not been yet upon the lake. Their new ships are not completed. They are in great forwardness, and we have reason to believe that within ten days they will appear upon the lake. As Chauncy cannot meet them without his new ship, for a short time they must have the ascendancy on the lake. During their ascendancy they may deem it most wise to attack this post. My opinion is that their attack is more to be desired than apprehended, but as the stake is of great national importance, and as the Secretary considers me responsible for the safety of this post, I shall not leave it until the new ship is completed and Commodore Chauncey can face Yeo.

(From MSS. of Hon. Peter A. Porter.)

**The Secretary of War to General Peter B. Porter.**

(2nd May, 1814?)

DEAR GENERAL,—Your letter of the 8th ult. has been received. Mr. Parrish may take 500 Indians, if so many can be procured. If they use their own rifles a reasonable compensation shall be made to them, and if the rifles be lost by unavoidable accident, they shall be indemnified agreeably to appraisement made previously, and on oath, by competent judges. You will invite Mr. Parrish to lead them, and are authorized to attach to them a Quartermaster and such other staff officers as may be indispensable. I shall appoint your brother a Deputy-Quartermaster-General. I hope your corps will soon be in the field and ready for action.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**General Peter B. Porter to the Secretary of War.**

CANANDAIGUA, May 3rd, 1814.

SIR,—The Indians have agreed to accept the invitation of the President to take up arms. The number of warriors will probably be 500. They will assemble at any place and on any day we may designate. Red Jacket and five other chiefs were sent from the council to ask explanations from me, and, (if they should be satisfactory,) to give the answer, which they have done, to your letter. They requested that these explanations should be in writing and a copy transmitted to you, in which request I have indulged them.

The volunteers were to have assembled in this town on the 1st inst., but as there are no barracks, and having neither a tent, camp kettle, quartermaster or cash, I was under the necessity about ten days ago of sending instructions to the recruits to remain where they were until further orders.

The necessity of these supplies was strongly urged to the Government before I left Albany, and I had presumed they would be furnished. Indeed, I had supposed that Major Noon was sent to Canandaigua principally with a view to the supply of our corps, but it seems he has no instructions relating to it.

We have probably 1,000 volunteers or upwards now engaged, and if we had means we could recruit more rapidly than heretofore. I have stationed about 200, (recruited in that vicinity,) at the mouth of the Genesee River, and supplied them with arms for the protection of the public provisions deposited there.

I am anxiously waiting instructions from you and the Governor.

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**Major E. D. Wood to General Porter.**

(Extract.)

SACKETT'S HARBOR, May 10th, 1814.

I hope, sir, that you have met with success, *as well in your political race* as in assembling volunteers and Indians to serve on the Niagara frontier. We have lost nothing of importance at Oswego. The affair, I think, was honorable to our arms. The troops fought gallantly so long as resistance would avail anything, and then retired in good order to the Falls.

This place has become very strong, and is now defended by 3,000 regulars. So nothing is to be apprehended in the event of a visit from Sir George.

On the 1st inst. Commodore Chauncey launched his 64-gun ship, and already has another of a smaller size in a forward state upon the stocks.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**The Secretary of War to the Six Nations.**

Brethren of the Six Nations living within the State of New York:

Your father, the President, invites you to join your arms to those of your white brethren, and to employ them in driving from our territory the enemies of both.

He has ordered me to say to such of you warriors as comply with this request, that they shall be fed and paid and supplied as the troops of the United States. Go forth then in your strength; make the invaders of our land fly before you. General Peter B. Porter, your friend and neighbor, will lead you to battle. Believe in what he says, obey his directions, and continue to deserve the approbation and favor of your father, the President.

[L. S.] Given at Washington this 14th day of February, 1814, under the seal of the War Department.

JOHN ARMSTRONG,  
Secretary of War.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

### General Peter B. Porter to the Six Nations.

Answer of General P. B. Porter to a delegation of chiefs of the Six Nations sent to make inquiries and ask explanations relative to a late communication of the President inviting them to take up arms:

BROTHERS,—I have received no authority from the President to enter into any engagements further than are contained in his late talk to you through the Secretary of War.

Your father, the President, therein invites you to take up arms and associate with your neighbors, the volunteers, who are now embodying under my command. He places you, (and it would be unjust for him to do otherwise,) on the same footing with his white children, the volunteers, and I am not empowered to make any engagements to them which are not made equally to you. He promises you both that you shall receive the same pay, rations, and supplies as are given to his regular troops. What these are, has often been explained to you.

As to the other subjects on which you ask explanations, I have no objection to giving you my opinion. But you will understand that it is only my individual opinion, as I have received no instructions from the Government to treat with you on these points.

You suppose it possible that the fortunes of war may place the enemy in possession of the lands you now occupy, and inquire what you may expect in such an event.

My answer is that the United States by their treaties with you guarantee to you the enjoyment of your lands, and so long as their arm is strong enough they will ensure you the quiet possession of them. But should the strength of the enemy prevail and drive you off, you will be treated like your white brethren, many of

whom will be found in the same situation—that is, you will be furnished with a new seat in some other part of the United States.

You say that the Six Nations own land on the Grand River, which has been granted them by the British Government, and ask what will be the situation of it in case of our taking possession of Canada.

I answer that the United States will confirm this land to you and your children, and the military services you render in obtaining it will strengthen your title.

You apprehend difficulties to the Indians on account of our rigid system of discipline and our modes of conducting war, which differ so much from those practised by your people.

I have no right to make a new set of regulations for the army, but your father, the President, knows and respects your usages and customs. He has no idea of subjecting you to the severe discipline of regular troops. You will have a liberal indulgence as to your particular modes of conducting war, and the opinions of your chiefs, many of whom are wise and experienced warriors, will be consulted.

In short, brothers, it is impossible for us to think of making a particular treaty beforehand for every possible case that may occur. If we were to attempt it the enemy would overrun our country while we are making bargains about taking *theirs*. You have had many and important dealings with the Government of the United States, and have always found it just and honorable to you. Shew it in return a liberal confidence.

If you are not satisfied with the promises and explanations now given you; if you are not willing to act with the volunteers in the same cause and for the same encouragements that are held out to them, go home and sleep. Let us hear no more of you as warriors, and we will not only take care of ourselves but we will defend you and your women and children from the enemy. But if you love your country and wish to defend your families and property with your own arms; if you wish to brighten the chain of friendship between yourselves and your white brethren by partaking with them in common dangers and successes; if you are ambitious to support the military fame of your ancestors of the Six Nations, go back, arm, and prepare all your young warriors, &c., &c., to join us when we arrive at Buffalo, and we will sweep the enemy from the country.

We shall be ready to move in 15 or 20 days. We wish to know your minds now, that we may inform the Secretary of War, and make some preparations to arm and support you.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**General Peter B. Porter to Governor Tompkins.**

CANANDAIGUA, May 17, 1814.

SIR,—I returned yesterday with Major Noon from the mouth of the Genesee River, where we were called on Friday last by information of the approach of the British fleet. The enclosed newspaper account is a tolerably correct relation of what took place.

We saved the town and our own credit by fairly outbullying John Bull. The discovery that we had troops, without knowing their numbers, concealed in a ravine near the mouth of the river to cut off their retreat in case they entered it, together with the tone of defiance with which we answered their demands, (the last answer having been conveyed by our friend Major Noon,) made them think it prudent to be off. We had, however, some excellent officers and good men well prepared, and in case the enemy had landed I had no doubt of a result creditable to the State.

When the enemy left Genesee they stood to the eastward, and a cannonading has been heard in the direction of Pultneyville, whither I believe General Swift had proceeded with some volunteers and militia. There is a report in town to-day that they landed at that place and took about 75 or 100 barrels of public provisions. The Oswego paper is undoubtedly genuine.

On the subject of the volunteer corps, I am still without a line from you or the Secretary of War. The silence on the part of Your Excellency is the more inexplicable, as I am sure that you can entertain no unfriendly views towards me personally. I have a considerable body of men engaged, by whom I am continually harassed by calls for contingencies, instructions, &c., &c., which it is not in my power to meet. I have neither money nor reputation to waste in pursuing the course to which a continuation of the present extraordinary state of this business must lead. But I find still greater difficulties in going back than forward. Having raised the men by your advice, I do not feel authorized to dismiss them without the same authority. I am sure I must receive something from Your Excellency shortly.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**Brigadier-General John Swift to General Porter.**

PALMYRA, 19th May, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honor to communicate to you an affair which took place at Pultneyville on Sunday last, between the enemy and a party of Americans consisting of 100 militia of Major Rodgers' battalion and 24 N. Y. S. Volunteers. On Thursday last

I received information by express that the enemy were off Pultneyville. On Friday I was informed that the enemy still continued off that place, and had got their barges out for the purpose of landing, but a thick fog coming on deterred them from their intended project. On Saturday about 4 o'clock p. m. I received intelligence that the enemy were off that place, and had taken four prisoners from the Four-Mile Creek. I immediately ordered what volunteers I had at this place to march immediately, and used my utmost endeavors to rally the militia. I arrived at Pultneyville on Sunday at 10 o'clock a. m. The fog still continued on the lake so that it was impossible to discover anything further than a mile from the shore. At about 12 a. m. the fog cleared and the enemy's fleet to the number of four ships, one brig and one schooner, appeared about four miles distant from the shore. I then proceeded to arrange my force in the best manner I could for the purpose of being prepared in case they should attack us. At 4 p. m. the enemy sent a flag ashore and demanded the publick property, and if it was not given up the village should be destroyed. My reply was that the property which remained in the storehouse at Pultneyville was property of private citizens of the U. S., and that the moment they attempted to land I should consider they invaded the American shore, and should defend it to the last extremity. After the enemy's flag had returned, several of the inhabitants informed me that there was only about 100 bbls. of damaged flour, and that if the village could be saved by sacrificing that, I had better do it. I now had two difficulties to struggle between. One was that if I permitted the enemy to land and take possession of private property on our own shores it would be injuring the honor and dignity of our country, and if I did not do so, I was sensible that many of the inhabitants would be deprived of their all. Under these considerations I concluded that it was best to send a flag to the enemy with this proposal, that if they would land and take nothing but what property remained in the storehouse and not molest private property or individuals, they could do it. Soon after I had despatched our flag and before it had reached the enemy, I observed them to be hoisting out their boats and filling them with men. I then again proceeded immediately to arrange my force for action. A number of the enemy's boats had landed and commenced loading the flour into their boats. A company of regulars had marched into the village and had begun to take possession of that before I had received an answer to the proposal which I had sent to the enemy. I immediately took the command of the volunteers and ordered them to commence firing, which they did in such a destructive manner that the enemy were obliged to take shelter in one of the

houses to cover themselves from our fire. A number of the gun-boats lay within a quarter of a mile of shore and the shipping one or two miles out. A cannonading soon commenced from them, which obliged us to retire into the woods. However, the enemy did not remain long on shore and left it so precipitately they cut their boats loose and lost several barrels of flour. I am happy to inform you that no loss was sustained on our part except the loss of about 130 barrels of rusty flour. The officer that commanded the expedition on shore, it is said, was wounded, and we have reason to judge from circumstances at that time that there must have been undoubtedly a number more wounded. The prisoners they took at the Four Mile Creek they put on shore in the first flag, but took two more when they retreated.

The public property to the amount of about 230 barrels of flour remain about three-quarters of a mile back from Putneyville. I shall be at Canandaigua this week.

(From MSS of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Governor D. D. Tompkins to General P. B. Porter.**

ALBANY, May 17th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I returned yesterday from the south, where I had been on Staten Island and in Westchester county. Your letter dated at Canandaigua, and the subsequent one from Onondaga, were received. The former I forwarded to the Secretary of War, with a letter urging him to see that the defects you complain of should be supplied. Mr. Jenkins informs me that tents and other equipments, and also clothing for the Niagara army, have gone on, but that the contractors left them on the road, and that agents have been sent on to collect and forward them.

The commissions I forwarded to you some time since, with liberty for you to fill them up as you pleased. The commissions and the order enclosed are the only things which I can do towards organizing and equipping the volunteers. You may remember the the Secretary's order calling on the volunteers expressly stipulated that *arms, equipment, and camp equipage* would be furnished by the United States, and would be ready by the time the volunteers could be assembled, and in the original requisition named the *staff of officers* whom he should send on for the purpose. If there be anything that I can do further, please *specify* it in a letter, and I will comply with any request which is within my authority.

You may confidently assure the people who were discharged without pay that by reason of the result of the election I venture

to say that they will be duly paid. I have never seen the cause of their non-payment explained. The truth is that the money to pay the quota called out under *United States authority* was transmitted in season, but could not be paid because General Hall had caused the muster rolls to be certified by a militia officer instead of an inspector or deputy-inspector, &c., of the army, as required by the regulations. As to the troops called out by *State authority*, the militia law pledges the faith of the Legislature to pay them the same as regular troops whilst they may be in service, and the only thing wanting was an appropriation of money to comply with the pledge, and directions as to the vouchers upon which they should be paid, &c. I made an urgent communication to the Assembly, soliciting such appropriation, and accompanied by an extract of General Hall's letter requesting me to procure an appropriation for the purpose. The Assembly adjourned without redeeming the pledge made by the militia law, after having had my communication before them five or six weeks. But there is reason to hope the next Legislature will do that justice which the last failed to do, and indeed it is perhaps fortunate for the troops that they did not receive their pay before their discharge, because it is probable the next Legislature will allow them more than the mere pay of the army, on account of their finding their own clothing.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Captain Wm. H. Merritt to Major General Riall.**

(Extract.)

TWELVE MILE CREEK, (undated.)

The horses are furnished by the men at 6 pence a day. I have not more than twelve good horses in the troop. I have thirty rank and file, who have a thorough knowledge of the country, and whose fidelity is well tried.

(From MSS. of J. P. Merritt, Esq.)

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**Lieut. Charles Ingersoll, Provincial Light Dragons, to Captain Wm. Hamilton Merritt.**

(Extract.)

GRAND RIVER, (undated).

Henry Young deserted last night. Westbrook came up the same evening and made Major Tewsley prisoner. He left his compliments for Captain Caldwell, saying that in a short time he would visit Oxford again, with a party of Indians.

(From MSS. of J. P. Merritt, Esq.)

**Lieutenant Charles Ingersoll to Captain Wm. Hamilton Merritt.**

ANCASTER, 20th May, 1814.

SIR,—I have this morning returned from Long Point. The Americans all left that place, after burning three grist-mills and the little village of Dover. A. Markle and young Green were the principal leaders. They were permitted to land very quietly in sight of the 19th Dragoons and a small party of militia. Their number could not have been very great. The dragoons were ordered to retire, and had reached the crossing of the Grand River before they were countermanded.

(From MSS. of J. P. Merritt, Esq.)

**General P. B. Porter to General Brown.**

CANANDAIGUA, May 26th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—The express who brought your letter of the 19th, and by whom you requested an answer, passed through this place on his return without my knowledge. It was, however, of little consequence, as I had in effect answered it by General Swift, who has gone to Utica to make known to you our situation and our wants.

We have probably about 1,000 men engaged in different parts of the country, exclusive of Indians. But we have neither tents, camp kettles, blankets, clothing, money, or quartermaster to supply their wants. It will therefore be totally impracticable to collect and organize them until some provision is made for their supplies, the majority of which I have not ceased from the first moment of my appointment to urge to the Secretary of War and the Governor. You will know what our wants are when I inform you that I know of no article to be obtained for us at this place and to the west excepting *muskets*, of which I believe there is a full supply, but without cartridge boxes or canteens.

I have received a letter from the Secretary of War agreeing to certain propositions which I had made to him relative to the organization of the Indians. Captain Parrish, who will have the immediate command of them, has gone to Buffalo to put those to the west in a state of preparation. He will return in three or four days, and proceed immediately to Oneida to collect and march those who live in that quarter. There will be about 500 warriors, &c., when we shall want a supply of blankets, shirts, shoes, and a small quantity of cloth for breech-cloths. Those who have them will carry their own rifles, but the remainder, (say one-half,) will expect to be supplied by the public. There will also be two rifle companies

in my corps, who should be furnished. I have a company of cavalry, which is full and completely equipped with the exception of *sabres*, of which they are destitute. I shall esteem it a favor if you will order on say from 100 to 110 for their use.

The total destitution of supplies, and even of a cent of money for contingent expenses, has hitherto retarded and almost discouraged our exertions. If those shall be provided, I trust we shall collect a respectable and efficient force in the course of a few days, ready and willing to act. Until the means are supplied, you will see the impossibility of our marching.

I hope shortly to have an answer from you, with the means of enabling me to proceed.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

### General Porter to Governor Tompkins.

CANANDAIGUA, May 26, 1814.

SIR,—Since I last wrote to you I have been relieved from some part of my anxiety by the receipt of your letter of the 17th, by General Edmunds, and since which time I have received a letter from the Secretary of War agreeing to certain propositions I had submitted to him relative to the Indian corps, and expressing his hope that the volunteers would be soon in the field and ready for action. Also, a letter from Major-General Brown, which it occurs was written in consequence of advice from the Secretary of War, in which he anticipates that we shall be organized and ready to march by the beginning of June, and requests me to let him know our wants, that he may order them supplied from Albany, as far as he has authority.

But I have no tents, kettles, blankets, money, or Q. Master to supply them, and it would be madness to call them together only to suffer and complain. I have advised General Brown of my situation.

About 70 men near the head of Seneca Lake have associated and equipped themselves, in the expectation of being received into the corps as a company of *mounted men*, and think they could fill the company in a few days, but your order having authorized only *one* company of mounted men, and Captain Stone's company being filled up, I have no authority to receive them without further instructions from you, which I hope you may think proper to give.

It is rumored here that Your Excellency intends calling the Legislature together in July. I really hope it may be true, for several reasons, and especially on account of the volunteers, who find some difficulty in engaging in a serious campaign at 8 dollars

per month when they can get 75 from the farmers. The notice convoking the Legislature would itself produce an immediate effect, as it would be an earnest of what they are to expect.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Erastus Granger to General Porter.**

BUFFALO, May 28th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—Since my arrival at this place I have been almost constantly with the Indians, and since they have determined to volunteer their services under you they are daily in council on subjects relating to the war, and have many things to say.

General Scott, conceiving that it would be an advantage to have them ready on your arrival, called them together three days since; told them that you and he acted in concert; that you were one; that you would move immediately, take the charge of them when embodied, but that you should be well pleased to find their warriors at this place on your arrival.

The chiefs have sent runners to Tonewanda, Genessee River, Allegany, and Catteragus, requesting their warriors to be here in ten days from yesterday. The Indians at Buffalo are impatient to be under pay, draw rations, &c. My opinion has coincided with that of General Scott.

The chiefs have requested me to be with them this summer, and as I find myself in a broken and disturbed situation, my family scattered abroad, and having heretofore received the appointment of Paymaster to the Indian volunteers, given bonds for a faithful performance and discharge of that duty for some time, opened accounts with the Paymaster General, &c., I have concluded to accompany the Indians in that capacity, and otherwise to be useful in any way in which my reasonable services may be required.

General Scott is very industrious in the exercising and disciplining his men. He spares no pains, and I think is an excellent officer.

Nothing important to communicate.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**General Winfield Scott to General Porter.**

H. QRS. NIAGARA FRONTIER,

BUFFALO, May 29th, 1814.

DEAR GENERAL,—I regret that I have not had a line from you on the subject of your levy, but hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you at this place with your collected force.

Supposing it would be advisable to get the Indians together at this place to meet your arrival, I made them an invitation accordingly. They are full of zeal and anxious to engage in operations. I told them that you were expected here in some ten or fourteen days, and in the meantime they should draw rations and be put on pay. This measure may save us some weeks. The Secretary asks in one of his letters: "Are your red brethren with you?" So I thought it would be agreeable to his wishes and acceptable to you to bring them together as early as possible.

I am greatly deficient in tents at this place, and cannot therefore give you any assistance in that article at present. Only one-half the supply ordered from Albany has arrived. I hear the remainder are on the road, and I have required a further supply of 300 to enable me to furnish your corps. Everything else I have in sufficient abundance, except funds for the Q. M.'s Dept., but suppose Major Noon has taken measures to procure the necessary sums.

Let me have a letter from you. Will it not be indispensable to your success with the Indians to engage the services of Mr. Parrish as interpreter. The Secretary would give the authority on application, and if you think it necessary I will join you in the solicitation.

I have ordered forward 500 rifles for such Indians as may be without, and am repairing all brought by them to our armory. They are much pleased with the prospect of having you as their commander.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**Sir George Prevost to Sir Gordon Drummond.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 1st June, 1814.

SIR,—It was with sincere regret and disappointment that I perused the detail of illiberal and wanton devastation and unjustifiable outrage reported in your letter of the 27th ulto., and M. Gen'l Riall's of the 19th, to have been committed in the vicinity of Dover, and on its unoffending inhabitants by the conflagration of their dwelling-houses and mills.

I cherished the hope that the severe, though just, retaliation inflicted for the destruction of the village of Newark would have deterred the enemy from recurring to similar acts of barbarity; under that impression I issued the proclamation of the 4th January last, which has been most scrupulously adhered to by the troops under my command. And it is with painful reluctance I feel

myself compelled to return to a system so abhorrent to the principles which always animated and characterized Britons, but such horrors cannot be suffered to remain without notice or unavenged.

You must therefore transmit by a flag of truce to the officer commanding the American force nearest to you, a statement of those atrocities with information that you have my instructions to inflict a severe retaliation for them.

You may assure him that the same will be repeated for every act of cruel outrage committed on the defenceless and peaceful settlers of our frontiers, and that the British fleet on the coast of America will be called upon to assist in this measure of just retaliation.

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**Sir George Prevost to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Cochrane.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 2nd June, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a letter which I have written to Lieutenant-General Drummond in consequence of the late disgraceful conduct of the American troops in the wanton destruction of private property on the north shores of Lake Erie, in order that if the war with the United States continues you may, should you judge it advisable, assist in inflicting that measure of retaliation which shall deter the enemy from a repetition of similar outrages.

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**General Porter to Jasper Parrish.**

CANANDAIGUA, June 2nd, 1814.

SIR,—You will please to proceed to Onondaga and Oneida and collect and march to this place, with as little delay as possible, all the Indian warriors in that quarter who may have agreed to comply with the invitation of the President of the 14th February last. Messrs. Trowbridge and Webster will assist you and be subject to your orders, the former as Inspector, and the latter as Quartermaster of the Indian corps.

The Indians who have rifles will be invited to bring them; they will be allowed a fair compensation for the use of them and the value of them in case of loss by unavoidable accidents. The contractor's agents will furnish provisions on your requisition.

The Secretary of War having directed me to invite you to take charge of the warriors, but without specifying what your rank and pay will be, I can only assure you that you will be allowed a fair

compensation for your services and expenses, in addition to your proper pay as agent.

Your extra pay will commence from the time when you first went to Buffalo with the Secretary's letter to the Indians, and which I think was about the first of April.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**General Porter to Edmund A. Trowbridge.**

CANANDAIGUA, May 24th, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given to me by the Secretary of War, you are hereby appointed an *Inspector* of the corps of Indian warriors mustered into the service of the United States by the letter of the President of the 14th of February last.

You will be subject to the orders of Jasper Parrish, Esq., who will have the immediate command of the warriors, and assist him in collecting and organizing them.

I have not been advised by the Secretary of War what your rank and pay will be. I presume, however, you will receive the pay and emoluments of a Captain in the United States Infantry.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**General Porter to Ephraim Webster.**

CANANDAIGUA, June 2nd, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given me by the Secretary of War, I have appointed you Quartermaster of the corps of Indian warriors invited into the service of the United States by the letter of the President of the United States of the 14th of February last.

Mr. Parrish will leave this place in the morning for Onondaga and Oneida to collect the warriors in that quarter, and march them to the frontier. You will obey the orders of Mr. Parrish as the officer having the immediate command of the Indian corps. I am not advised by the Secretary of War what your rank and pay will be, but I presume you will receive the pay and emoluments of a Captain of United States Infantry.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**General Brown to Caleb Hopkins.**

BUFFALO, June 20th, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given to me by the Secretary of War, you are hereby appointed *Adjutant* of the

corps of Indian warriors invited into the service of the United States by the letter of the President of the 14th February last.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**The Secretary of War to General Brown.**

WAR DEPARTMENT, June 10, 1814.

(Extract.)

To give, however, immediate occupation to your troops, and to prevent their blood from stagnating, why not take Fort Erie and its garrison, stated at three or four hundred men. Land between Point Abino and Erie in the night; assail the fort by land and water; push forward a corps to seize the bridge at Chippawa, and be governed by circumstances in either stopping there or going farther. Boats may follow and feed you. If the enemy concentrates his whole force on this line, as I think he will, it will not exceed two thousand men.

(From Henry Adams' *History of the United States*, Vol. VIII., p. 33.)

**General Jacob Brown to General Peter B. Porter.**

HEADQUARTERS, BUFFALO, June 11th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 8th was handed to me last evening. I hope that you may be enabled to join me at this place as you anticipate. Major Noon will pay to your Quartermaster \$1,500. You will consider your command on the same footing with the regulars as to all expenses. When we are in funds your accounts will be paid, and I trust we shall not want for money for all proper purposes or expenses.

You may rely upon my disposition to do everything in my power to promote your views.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**Wm. Carpenter to General Porter.**

June 13th, (1814?)

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 5th inst. I have received, and immediately repaired to Sangersfield to ascertain the number of recruits obtained by Captain Knap, whom I found ill of a fever. He has enlisted about 45, and has given furloughs to a number to go recruiting, who will not return within the period mentioned in your letter, in time to meet you at Auburn. I have received no

returns from Madison Cy., but have reason to calculate on from 50 to 75 by the latter part of this month, and as many more from this quarter. I have lost no time since my return home. I have seven or eight parties out. We are determined to persist, though in opposition to a most powerful current. I am raising a little money by subscription to appropriate as bounty to the volunteers, and could I be at liberty to furnish a small sum to recruiting officers, to be made use of with economy, the effect would be conspicuous. An order on the Qr.-Mr. Phelps for a small sum I would beg leave to suggest if allowable, particularly as recruiting music must be provided. We have a meeting of the Brothertown Indians this day. They all speak good English, and are quite civilized. I calculate on 20 of their warriors. They will be attached to our Lt. Infantry as being decent men and dress as Christians. It is incumbent on me to go to Watertown and Sackett's Harbor next week. I shall be absent 6 or 7 days, and by sending off my men immediately the parties would be too small to recruit with much effect, as I find the more we get the more willing others are to join (something like the adage of the snowball.) I therefore beg you will allow me to defer my march until the latter end of this month, when I shall with pleasure leave this for any place you may be pleased to order in the interim.

P. S.—Gen'l. Swift told me that the cavalry would belong to my battalion. Please assure me of this, as I can with confidence make an assertion that will be useful.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

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**General Brown to General P. B. Porter.**

HEADQUARTERS, BUFFALO,

July (June?) 23rd, 1814.

*(Very Confidential.)*

DEAR SIR,—I have been expecting to hear from you for some days past, with the hope of learning when you would be able to march to this place with your volunteers. Much precious time is wasting under us. You will order on your dragoons and every corps or company you have formed, upon the receipt of this. The Indians must proceed direct to this place without any more delay.

I intend to cross the streight before me on the 1st or 2d of July, and nothing but the elements will, I believe, prevent the movement.

I am anxious to see you in person, within seven days, with a view to some necessary arrangements before I cross. Write me particularly by the return of the express, and let me know the day on which I may expect to see you.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

### General Porter to General Brown.

CANANDAIGUA, June 23, 1814.

SIR,—In returning from an excursion I have lately made to the east, I find that a letter which I wrote you on the day of my departure was not forwarded to you agreeably to my instructions. Its contents, however, were not important.

From the best information now in my possession, I calculate on 1,000 to 1,250 volunteers, exclusive of Indians. They are ordered to rendezvous at Batavia on the 29th inst. I have, however, received information that the recruits raised in Herkimer, Oneida and Madison will not be able to reach Batavia until four or six days after the time assigned, owing to the difficulties they have met with in procuring provisions, &c. If agreeable to you I could wish to remain a few days at Batavia, as well to collect the whole of my force as to organize and subject them to some discipline.

Eighty warriors, principally Onondagas, will march from here in the morning to the west. From 100 to 150 Oneida and Stockbridge warriors are expected here on Monday next.

It would be gratifying to me, and I believe not disagreeable to him, to have Lieut. Fraser in my corps, if you can dispense with his services. His practical knowledge of the various details of duty would be extremely serviceable to me, and his talents, zeal and ardor could not but be attended with the best effects upon the corps at large.

I ought not perhaps to notice, (because it was indirect and unofficial,) an intimation lately given to me that *the Indians are to be detailed from my command*. I have heretofore been given distinctly to understand, and so have they, that they were to form part of my corps, and I cannot for a moment believe that I am to be disappointed in this expectation.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**General Jacob Brown to General Porter.***(Private.)*

HEADQUARTERS, BUFFALO,

June 23rd, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I wrote you by express this morning. You will have learned my intentions from that letter. Nothing but the elements will, I believe, prevent my passing the streight before me on the first of July. You must see me at this place before that date. Order Parrish with the Indians forward. Your dragoons must be here and every corps you have organized.

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**General P. B. Porter to General Brown.**

CANANDAIGUA, 24th June, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I have this moment received by express your favor of the 23rd. In a letter I wrote you yesterday by mail, and which you will undoubtedly have received before this reaches you, I informed you of particulars respecting the numbers and progress of my corps, and that they had been ordered to rendezvous at Batavia on the 29th inst. The shortness of the time will not permit me to hasten this period, but I will immediately send to the officers in this vicinity and expedite their movements as much as possible.

That I may have the opportunity of a personal conference with you, which you request, and which I am very desirous of myself, I shall make my arrangements to be at Buffalo on Tuesday next, whence I can return to Batavia and meet my corps on Wednesday. It gives me great pleasure to learn that you are preparing for a movement. I feel extremely anxious to accompany you. One week however beyond the 29th would make an immense difference in the strength and efficiency of my corps, and I hope that 5 or 6 days may not be essential to you.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**Monthly Return of 1st Brigade, General Scott, June 30, 1814.**

	<i>Present for Duty.</i>		<i>Aggregate. Present and Absent.</i>
	<i>N. C. O. Rank and File.</i>	<i>Officers.</i>	
9th Regt.....	332	16	642
11th Regt.....	416	17	577
22nd Regt.....	217	12	287
25th Regt.....	354	16	619
General staff.....		4	4
Total.....	1319	65	2129

**SECOND BRIGADE, GENERAL RIPLEY.**

21st Regt.....	651	25	917
23rd Regt.....	341	8	496
General staff.....		2	
Total.....	992	35	1415

**ARTILLERY, MAJOR HINDMAN.**

Towson's company.....	89		101
Biddle's company.....	80		104
Ritchie's company.....	96		138
Williams' company.....	62		73
Total.....	327		413

**Monthly Return of General Brown's Division, July 1, 1814.**

	<i>N. C. O. and Men.</i>	<i>Officers.</i>	<i>Aggregate.</i>
Artillery.....	330	15	413
Scott's Brigade.....	1312	65	2122
Ripley's Brigade.....	992	36	1415
Porter's Brigade.....	710	43	830
Total.....	3344	159	4780

(From Henry Adams' History of the United States, VIII. p. 35, 37.)

**Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, July 5, 1814.**

On Thursday last a party of British regulars and Indians, between 2 and 300 strong, made their appearance at Lewiston and drove away many of the inhabitants, some of which they took. We learn that they then proceeded a few miles on the Ridge Road, burnt the militia barracks at Hardscrabble, and plundered horses, cattle, hogs and sheep. A branch of the same party, as we understand, came up to Schlosser. They were commanded by a son of the celebrated Elliott.

One of the Indians was killed in a quarrel with a Mr. Sage, who was detained as a prisoner. The Indian, being intoxicated, attacked Sage with the butt of his gun. Sage struck him with an axe, cut him down and escaped.

Young Elliott told the inhabitants that those who remained peaceably in their houses should not be hurt.

We learn further that the party have left Lewiston with above a hundred head of cattle.

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(From Boston Yankee, 15th July, 1814.)

**Extract of a Letter to a Gentleman in New York, Dated Sackett's Harbor, July 6.**

With pleasure I inform you of a small expedition, (fitted out of this place on the 27th ult., and returned this day,) of two whale boats carrying 15 men each, who succeeded in burning a bomb vessel of 90 tons, on the stocks ready for launching, together with a public building containing naval stores, at a place called Presqu' Isle, directly opposite Oswego on the Canada shore.—*Mer. Adv.*

(See Part I. p., 26.)

**General Brown to —Fleming.**

CHIPPAWA, U. C., July 6th, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given to me by the Secretary of War, you are hereby appointed *inspector* of the corps of Indian warriors invited into the service of the United States by the letter of the president of the 14th of February last.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porier.)

**General Porter to General Brown.**

SIR,—The manner in which the battle of Chippawa was fought by the troops under my command, the extent and nature of the ground it embraced, added to the loss of their principal officers, rendered it impracticable to give you a detailed account of it in time for your report to the Secretary of War without the hazard of considerable errors, and was therefore necessarily deferred.

Having since my arrival at this place seen that report, which, though complimentary to me personally beyond what I had any reason to expect, you will pardon me for saying does great injustice to the troops under my command. I regret that I had not finished even the imperfect account then in my power, because if I had I am sure you would not for a moment have entertained the idea that the volunteers and Indians fled before the enemy without making a proper and adequate resistance.

If the detailed statement which I am now enabled to give shall remove such an unfavorable impression I am certain that no one will receive it with more pleasure than yourself, and you will excuse its length and particularity, without which it will be impossible to have a correct understanding of the operations of my corps on that day.

Immediately on my arrival in camp on the 5th, you informed me that the front and left of the army was much harassed by parties of Indians and militia, and proposed to me to scour the woods where they lay and drive them across the Chippawa bridge, assuring me (truly no doubt at *that* time) that there was no regular force of the enemy on this side of the creek, and cautioning me also not to advance into the plains before Chippawa where we should be exposed to the rake of the enemy's batteries, with which the opposite bank of the creek was lined.

This service, although affording but sorry prospects to the ambition of a soldier, inasmuch as it must end, however well conducted, in a retreat, was cheerfully undertaken by the Indians and 150 Pennsylvania volunteers, the number I required.

I drew them up in an *entire* rank at open order, with my right at the extremity of the fields to the rear and left of the camp, and my left extending into the woods and forming a front of half a mile in extent. The line was at right angles with the Niagara and parallel to the Chippawa, and was supported by a reserve of 56 regular infantry in the rear of the centre, under command of Lieut.

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In this order I advanced slowly and cautiously, after having given instructions to charge the enemy the moment we should meet them, and if possible destroy or capture them before they could

gain their batteries, which order was most promptly and effectually executed in so far as regarded the troops which it was our expectation to contend with.

We found them concealed in the woods waiting our approach, and after receiving their fire, charged, drove, and pursued them. Their retreat was a flight, and to effect any useful object it became necessary that our pursuit should be a chase. After continuing this chase for  $\frac{3}{4}$ th of a mile, the whole of which was marked by carnage, we most unexpectedly found on emerging from the woods near Chippawa that our right was within a few yards of, and precipitating itself upon, the whole British army. On receiving their fire the front of our weak and *now* scattered line recoiled, but I experienced no difficulty in rallying, forming, and advancing it again. I was, however, soon convinced how futile it was to expect that an attenuated line of exhausted men could resist a compact and double line of fresh troops, presenting on the same extent of ground at least four times our numerical force. After a few fires the enemy rushed upon us, and being more than half a mile in advance of and unsupported by Genl. Scott, I ordered a retreat, which, from the rapidity of the pursuit, became on our part a flight, and presented that part of our movements which alone could have met your view, and undoubtedly led to the remarks in your report.

The light companies of the enemy, supported by the Indians and militia who had taken refuge behind them, gave a temporary annoyance to General Scott's left, but were soon broken and driven back by the Indians who formed my extreme left, and who on reaching the plain and meeting the fire of the enemy's batteries retired according to order and fell upon the rear and right flank of the enemy. You were yourself a witness to the alacrity with which the Pennsylvania regiment afterwards advanced to the plains of Chippawa, and under a heavy cannonade formed upon the left of General Scott's line.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

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**General Porter to General Brown.**

CHIPPAWA, July 10th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I received your order to march. I shall most gladly execute the terms if it will permit. (Sic.) I send you copies of two letters brought in yesterday by the Indians. They are written by a clerk of Messrs. Clark and Street and are genuine.

They go to confirm the extent of the enemy's loss on the 5th and to satisfy me of the correctness of the report which the Indians gave of the battle.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

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**General Orders.**

Adjutant-General's Office, Left Division,  
CHIPPAWA PLAINS, July 6, 1814.

Major-General Brown has the gratification to say that the soldiers of the 2nd Division west of the Niagara merit greater applause than he is able to bestow in General Orders; they merit the highest approbation of their country. The conduct of Brigadier-General Scott's brigade, which had the opportunity to engage the whole force of the enemy, the greater part it is believed of all in the peninsula, removes on the day of this battle the reflection of our country that its reputation in arms is yet to be established. His brigade consists of battalions of the 9th, the 11th, the 25th, and a detachment of the 22nd. Towson's company of artillery, which was attached to it, gallantly commenced and with it sustained the action.

The volunteers and Indians performed their part—they drove the enemy's Indians and light troops until they met the British army.

They meet with the General's approbation.

In the reports of killed and wounded the names of the wounded officers will be mentioned, in order that they may be rewarded with that honorable mention which is due.

By order of Major-General Brown.

C. K. GARDNER,  
Adjutant-General.

*(From Utica Gazette Extra, July 9, 1814.)*

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**Militia General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON, July 10th, 1814.

His Honor the President and Lieutenant-General Commanding has the greatest satisfaction in communicating to the militia of the Province the very favorable report which Major-General Riall has given him of the good conduct of the 2nd Regiment of Lincoln Militia in the attack that was made on the enemy's position near Chippawa on the afternoon of the 5th instant.

This small but gallant corps was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Dickson, whose zeal and exertions on this as on many former occasions are worthy of the highest commendation.

And His Honor trusts that the meritorious loyalty and bravery evinced by this corps will be anxiously emulated by every other regiment in the province, should they find themselves called upon to take up arms for the protection of their families and their property against an enemy who has so unnaturally and unjustly invaded their once peaceful and flourishing country.

By His Honor's command,

C. FOSTER,

Adjutant-General of Militia, Upper Canada.

*Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, July 12th, 1814.*

Since the action of Chippawa the army has been reinforced by some detachments of regulars, a corps of bombardiers, (attached to the engineers,) and a body of General Porter's volunteers, about 600 strong, of infantry and mounted men.

### **General Porter to General Brown.**

QUEENSTON HEIGHTS, July 13th, 10 p. m.

SIR,—You must be aware how difficult it is to bring my scattered and multifarious force to act on short notice. I find too that provisions are out to-night, and that we must draw in the morning, which in itself will consume much time. No order can be communicated to-night to any effect, and to accomplish anything like the object proposed we must march out and back twenty-four miles in a straight line, besides the deviations *which I hope to make great*. We could not by any probability march before 10 o'clock in the morning.

I have some ambition for the honor of my corps, and if you can give me another day I will march at daylight, and, I trust, do something which will not discredit your command.

If I go to-morrow I can only promise a *fight* which, however, may prove disastrous. Another day will enable me to regulate my force so that I defy the *enemy*. Please direct.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**General Porter to Major Orne, Inspector General.**

———— July 13th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—Would it not be well to station some officer under your charge at our S. E. picket on the Chippawa road, to attend to and dispose of the citizens, principally women, who are constantly thronging to the camp?

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Vice-Admiral Sir A. Cochrane to John W. Croker, Esq.**

BERMUDA, 18th July, 1814.

SIR,—Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost having transmitted to me the copy of a letter which he has addressed to Lieutenant-General Drummond in consequence of the late disgraceful conduct of the American troops in the wanton destruction of private property on the north shore of Lake Erie, in order that, if the war with the United States continues, I may if I think proper, assist in inflicting that measure of retaliation which shall deter the enemy from a repetition of similar outrages.

I am most decidedly of opinion that the readiest way to attain this object is to bring home to the supporters of the Government which authorizes this unnatural system of warfare a full share of its dreadful calamities, and to this end I have issued to the senior officer of H. M. blockading squadron an order, accompanied by a secret memorandum of which I enclose copies together with copies of Sir George Prevost's letter, and its enclosure to be laid before My Lord's Commissioners of the Admiralty.

## ORDER FOR RETALIATION.

No. 1.

By the Honorable Alexander Cochrane, K. B., &c., &c., &c.

Whereas, by letters from His Excellency Lt.-Gen'l. Sir George Prevost of the 1st and 2nd of June last, it appears that the American troops in Upper Canada have committed the most wanton and unjustifiable outrages on the unoffending inhabitants, by burning their mills and houses and by a general devastation of private property. And whereas His Excellency has requested that in order to deter the enemy from a repetition of similar outrages I should assist in inflicting measures of retaliation.

You are hereby required and directed to destroy and lay waste such towns and districts as you may find assailable. You will hold strictly in view the conduct of the American army towards His Majesty's unoffending Canadian subjects, and you will spare merely

the lives of the unarmed American inhabitants of the United States. For only by carrying this retaliation into the country of our enemy can we hope to make him sensible of the impolicy as well as the inhumanity of the system he has adopted.

You will take every opportunity of explaining to the people how much I lament the necessity of following the rigorous example of the American forces.

And as these commanders must obviously have acted under instructions from the Executive Government of the United States, whose intimate and unnatural connections with the late Government of France have led them to a system of plunder and devastation, it is therefore to their own Government the unfortunate sufferers must look for indemnification for the loss of their property.

And this order is to remain in force until I receive information from Sir George Prevost that the Executive Government of the United States have come under an obligation to make full remuneration to the injured and unoffending inhabitants of the Canadas for all the outrages their troops have committed.

Given under my hand at Bermuda, 18th July, 1814.

ALEX. COCHRANE.

*(Secret Memorandum to Accompany Foregoing Order.)*

BERMUDA, 18th July, 1814.

Notwithstanding my public order of this day's date, directing you to destroy and lay waste such towns and districts of the enemy as may be within your power, you are hereby authorized to except such islands and places as, either from furnishing supplies or being likely to be hereafter occupied by us in furtherance of the objects of the war in which we are engaged, it may be more advantageous to ourselves to treat with a marked lenity and forbearance.

And if in any descent you shall be enabled to take such a position as to threaten the inhabitants with the destruction of their property, you are hereby authorized to levy upon them contributions in return for your forbearance and in proportion to the value of the private property thus spared.

But you will not by this understand that the magazines belonging to the Government, or their harbors or their shipping, are to be included in such arrangements; these, together with their contents, are in all cases to be taken away or destroyed.

A. COCHRANE.

*(Canadian Archives, Q. 129, p. 144.)*

*Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, July 19, 1814.*

On Friday last several waggons in the employ of the United States were taken by the enemy near St. David's, four miles from Queenston. Seth Cotton of Buffalo and his team were among the captured.

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**Militia Order.**

Headquarters, Right Division,  
20-MILE CREEK, 18th July, 1814.

Major-General Riall has the greatest satisfaction in making known to the Right Division the spirited conduct, vigilance, and activity of Adjutant Foster, Lieutenants Smith and Beam, who with a small detachment of the 1st Lincoln Militia spiritedly attacked a cavalry patrol of the enemy last night, immediately dispersed it, and made the officer prisoner.

The Major-General avails himself of this opportunity of paying a just tribute of approbation to the zeal, loyalty, and devotion which pervades all classes at the present moment. He anticipates the happiest results from their continued efforts to rescue their property and insulted families from the momentary violence of a rapacious and unprincipled invader.

By order,

J. B. GLEGG,

Major B. M.

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*Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, July 26, 1814.*

On Friday last three United States schooners arrived at Fort Erie from Erie, Pa., with rising 300 fine regular troops on board, who immediately joined the army.

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**General Order.**

HEADQUARTERS, HEIGHTS, July 23rd, 1814.

The movement of the forces yesterday was made in good order and reflects honor on the troops. The promptness with which the volunteers ascended the heights and the zeal maintained afterwards by that corps and Captain Harris at the head of his troop, as well also as that of Capt. Chun and Lieut. Riddle in penetrating several miles into the country in pursuit of the retreating enemy, merits the General's approbation. It must be evident to every reflecting and observing officer that this army is too much encumbered with

baggage so as greatly to retard its movements, thus tending to destroy its efficiency as well as to impair its honor.

Therefore in order to retain its full and entire strength, to be able to act with promptness and to move with alacrity, the Major-General orders the baggage to be reduced as follow, to wit:—1 wall tent for each field officer and one common tent for the several waiters of the field officers of any regiment or battalion; to the officers of each company when not exceeding three, one W. tent, if more than three, the addition of one C. tent, and for every ten non-com. musicians and privates one C. tent, one C. kettle, one tin pan.

As regards to private baggage of officers, commandants of brigades or corps seeing the necessity, as they must, will exercise their ingenuity in curtailing it as far as practicable. This surplus baggage will *immediately* be collected by corps respectively and sent to the wharf, where it will be received and conveyed by the Q. M. General to the opposite shore and forwarded to Buffalo.

At the solicitation of the surgeons of the 9th and 23d Regiments one woman is permitted to be retained in each as *hospital matrons*. Surgeons of other regiments if they deem it necessary will do the same.

By command,  
R. JONES.

### General Porter to General Brown.

FORT ERIE, U. C., July 28th, 1814.

SIR,—In compliance with the order to report the conduct of the several corps and of individuals engaged in the action of the 25th, it gives me great pleasure to state that the small part of my command, which by the operation of prior orders I was enabled to bring into the field, conducted (itself) in a manner to meet my most sanguine expectations. To my regret there had been previously detached from my command four companies, who were acting under Colonels Swift and Fenton on the east side of the Niagara; two companies were detained by your orders at Chippawa to protect the camp, and a considerable number were performing guard duties; the mounted men could not act in the night, so that the number actually brought into action did not exceed 300, and detachments from these were again made to carry wounded men and prisoners into camp. Although the volunteers came last into action, they were not idle after their arrival, having been conspicuously engaged with part of the regular troops in successfully repelling three desperate charges of the enemy's line to regain their artillery. On

passing the Chippawa the highest mortification was visible on every countenance on meeting an order to remain at that place, and the alacrity with which they passed to the scene of action when that order was countermanded was not less conspicuous. They fought with the coolness and discipline of regular troops, and it gives me pride to add that on subsequent inquiries I could not learn that a single *fugitive* from *this* corps straggled from the field of battle into camp.

Lieut.-Col. Dobbin, (N. Y. V.), although the state of his health could hardly excuse his taking the field and to which was added an uncomfortable wound in the breast received early in the action, continued throughout to do his duty. Major Wood (P. V.) excited universal admiration by his persevering bravery. In the first of the action he received a severe wound in his leg and had one arm bruised and wholly disabled by the fall of his horse, shot under him, yet he could not be prevailed on to retire, but continued to cheer his men by animating encouragements and his own example. Captain Hooper, (N. Y. V.), one of my best officers, fell gloriously at the head of his platoon. It is due to the memory of that worthy and gallant young man, Adjut. Poe, (P. V.), to say that he was not less admired for the cheerful and heroic fortitude which he displayed during the short time he survived his wounds than he was for his bravery in action. Q. Masters McClay and Green and others, whose duty did not require them in the line, volunteered their services, and the former was badly wounded in the head and leg. Lieut.-Col. Willcox of the Canadian Vols., (a corps which though small is surpassed by none in enterprise and bravery,) was most actively and usefully engaged during the whole action, and had his horse killed. My Brigade-Major Stanton, whose enterprise and intrepidity I have before reported to you, regardless of personal danger and zealous to be useful, was taken prisoner. He was employed in reconnoitring, and in his first excursion, unattended by any other, took two prisoners and brought them in. In his second he ventured too far, and on returning, I am informed, took post in the enemy's line supposing it to be his own brigade, and did not discover his mistake until surrounded and his horse secured. My aid, Major Dox, though a young soldier, could not have behaved better. Fearless of danger, he was at every point where duty called, and greatly exposed. To prevent misconstruction, I should mention that my volunteer aid, Lieut. Frazer, 15th U. S. I., who now acts as my Brigade-Major, was absent, having been the preceding day ordered to Buffalo to collect the Indian warriors. I regret that the limits of a report will not permit me to particularize many other officers and men perhaps equally deserving, but I cannot

refrain from adding my testimony to the opinion which your own observations must have led you to form of Major Wood of the Engineers, who, though of the regular army, acted for a considerable time this night and on several former occasions with the volunteers, and who is always to be found where there is most danger. For sound judgment, quickness of perception, and promptness and effect of execution, he is excelled by no officer of the army.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Jasper Parrish to General Porter.**

CANANDAIGUA, July 27th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—On the 25th instant the Onondaga chiefs and warriors passed through this place with their wounded Indians, on their way home. They say that they will return on the lines as soon as they can get through their little haying, if they could receive their pay for their past services.

On my return home from Buffalo I was taken with the rheumatism in my other leg and foot so bad that I have been confined at home for 15 days. I am a little better; do intend to-day to take my horse and ride up street. I am in hopes in a few days to be able to go out and attend to the Indian business.

Please to let me hear from you by the return of mail what your pleasure is respecting the Indians. I understand they have left the lines for the present. Your orders shall be faithfully attended to as far as I am able.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Extract of Brigade Order.**

CAMP AT ERIE, July 28th, 1814.

To the field officers of the 1st and 23rd Regiments, Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas and Major Brooks, the Brigadier returns his thanks for their gallant conduct, particularly to the latter for his alacrity in rallying his troops. To Colonel Miller of the 21st Regiment he returns *more than his thanks*. He deserves the gratitude and approbation of the nation—never was an enterprize more heroically executed, never was the valor of a veteran more proudly displayed. The Brigadier-General was satisfied with the conduct of his staff, Lieutenant McDonald of the 19th and Lieutenant Clark of the 11th.

The officers of the brigade have to mourn the loss of Major

McFarland of the 23rd and Lieutenant Bigelow of the 21st. They died on that field where a soldier should pant to perish, gallantly leading and animating their men.

(From the Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 2nd, 1814.)

**Report of the Killed, Wounded and Missing of the Left Division of the Army Commanded by Major-General Brown in the Action of the Afternoon and Night of the 25th July, 1814, at the Falls of Niagara.**

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT ERIE, July 30th, 1814.

General Staff—wounded—1 major-general, 1 aid-de-camp.

Light Dragoons—killed—1 corporal; wounded—2 privates.

Artillery—killed—1 captain, 1 corporal, 8 privates; wounded—1 captain, 2 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 1 musician, 28 privates; missing—1 private.

*First or Brigadier-General Scott's Brigade.*

Brigade Staff—wounded—1 brigadier-general, 1 aid-de-camp, 1 brigade-major.

Ninth Infantry—killed—1 captain, 2 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 11 privates; wounded—1 major, 1 quartermaster, 1 paymaster, 1 captain, 5 subalterns, 7 sergeants, 5 corporals, 69 privates; missing—1 subaltern, 1 sergeant-major, 2 sergeants, 11 privates.

Eleventh Infantry—killed—1 captain, 2 sergeants, 4 corporals, 21 privates; wounded—1 major, 1 captain, 5 subalterns, 1 sergeant-major, 1 chief musician, 7 sergeants, 3 corporals, 1 musician, 83 privates; missing—1 subaltern, 2 privates.

Twenty-second Infantry—killed—2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 33 privates; wounded—1 colonel, 2 captains, 4 subalterns, 9 sergeants, 11 corporals, 1 musician, 62 privates; missing—3 subalterns, 2 sergeants, 12 privates.

Twenty-fifth Infantry—killed—1 captain, 1 subaltern, 26 privates; wounded—1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 quartermaster, 1 subaltern, 6 sergeants, 6 corporals, 50 privates; missing—1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 19 privates.

*Second or Brigadier-General Ripley's Brigade.*

First Infantry—killed—11 privates; wounded—2 subalterns, 18 privates; missing—1 corporal, 1 private.

21st Infantry—killed—1 subaltern, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 11 privates; wounded—1 captain, 5 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 53 privates; missing—19 privates.

23d Infantry—killed—1 major, 2 sergeants, 7 privates; wounded—1 captain, 6 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 43 privates; missing—3 sergeants, 2 corporals, 22 privates.

*Brigadier-General Porter's Command.*

Brigade Staff—1 brigade major missing.

Canadian Volunteers—killed—2 privates; wounded—2 privates; missing, 8 privates.

Pennsylvania Volunteers—killed—1 adjutant, 1 sergeant, 9 privates; wounded—1 major, 1 quartermaster, 1 subaltern, 21 privates; missing—1 captain.

New York Volunteers—killed—1 captain, 1 corporal, 2 privates; wounded—1 lieutenant-colonel, 1 subaltern, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 9 privates; missing—1 subaltern.

*Grand Total.*

Killed—1 major, 1 adjutant, 5 captains, 4 subalterns, 10 sergeants, 10 corporals, 140 privates—171.

Wounded—1 major-general, 1 brigadier-general, 2 aids-de-camp, 1 brigade major, 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-colonel, 4 majors, 1 adjutant, 3 quartermasters, 1 paymaster, 7 captains, 32 subalterns, 1 sergeant-major, 1 chief musician, 34 sergeants, 29 corporals, 3 musicians, 449 privates—total, 572.

Missing—1 brigade-major, 1 captain, 6 subalterns, 1 sergeant-major, 8 sergeants, 5 corporals, 95 privates—total, 117.

C. K. GARDNER,  
Adjutant-General.

Officers killed—Major McFarland, 23rd Infantry; Captain Ritchie, Corps of Artillery; Captain Hull, 9th Infantry; Captain Kinney, 25th do.; Captain Goodrich, 11th do.; First Lieutenant Bigelow, 21st do. First Lieutenant Turner, 9th do.; Second Lieutenant Burghart, 9th do.; Easign Hunter, 25th do.; Captain Hooper, New York Volunteers; Adjutant Poe, Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Officers wounded—Major-General Brown, severely, wounded through the thigh and in the side.

Captain Spencer, aid to the Major-General, through the body; supposed to be mortal.

Artillery—Captain Biddle, slightly, shot wound in the neck and arm; Second Lieutenant Campbell, badly, shot through the leg; Second Lieutenant Schmuck, severely.

*First Brigade.*

Brigadier-General W. S. Scott, severely, shoulder fractured and wounded in the side; Lieutenant J. D. Smith, 6th Infantry, Brigade-Major, badly, through the leg; Lieutenant Worth, 23rd Infantry, aid-de-camp, severely, grape shot in the thigh.

Ninth Infantry—Major Leavenworth, slightly, contusion in the side; Captain W. L. Foster, slightly, in the shoulder; Lieutenant and Paymaster Fowle, slightly, in the foot; Lieutenant and Quartermaster Browning, slightly, in the face; Second Lieutenant Fisher, severely, shot in the head and wrist; Third Lieutenant Cushman, slightly, in the thigh and shoulder; Ensign G. Jacobs, severely, shot in the knee; Ensign J. P. Jacobs, slightly, in the shoulder; Ensign Blake, slightly, in the knee.

Eleventh Infantry—Major McNeil, severely, canister shot in the knee; Captain Bliss, badly, shot in the leg; First Lieutenant Hall, slightly, shot in the thigh; Second Lieutenant Cooper, slightly, contusion in the breast; Third Lieutenant Brown, slightly, in the thigh; Ensign Bedford, slightly, hurt in the abdomen by a splinter; Ensign Thompson, (26th, doing duty in the 11th,) severely, shot wound in the side.

Twenty-Second Infantry—Colonel Brady, severely, shot wound in the side and hip; Captain Pentland, severely, wounded and a prisoner; Captain Foulk, severely, shot wound in the side; First Lieutenant Culbertson, severely, shot wound in the leg; First Lieutenant Ferguson, severely, shot in the hand from a canister; Second Lieutenant Armstrong, dangerously, shot wound in the shoulder; Third Lieutenant Bean, slightly, shot in the foot.

Twenty-Fifth Infantry—Major Jessup, severely, shot wounds in the hand and shoulder; Lieutenant and Adjutant Shaylor, severely, shot wounds in the arm and side; Lieutenant and Quartermaster McGlassin, badly, shot wound in the shoulder; Third Lieutenant Gifford, severely, shot wound in the hip.

*Second Brigade.*

First Infantry—1st Lieutenant Vasquez, slightly, shot in the thigh and bayoneted in the leg; 1st Lieutenant Bissell, slightly, in the leg.

Twenty-first Infantry—Captain Burbank, severely, shoulder fractured; 1st Lieutenant Cilley, severely, thigh fractured; 2nd Lieutenant Fisk (of the 19th, attached), slightly, in the breast; Ensign Jones, slightly, flesh wound in the wrist; Ensign Camp, (2d Rifle Regiment, attached,) flesh wound in the ankle; Ensign Thomas, slightly, contusion in the back.

Twenty-third Infantry—Captain Odell, severely, shot wound

in the arm; First Lieutenant H. Whiting, severely, in the neck; Second Lieutenant Ingersoll, slightly, in the foot; Second Lieutenant Tappan, slightly, in the head; Third Lieutenant Abeal, slightly, in the leg; Third Lieutenant Deidrich, slightly, in the arm; Third Lieutenant Lamb, severely, in the leg.

*Brigadier-General Porter's Command.*

New York Volunteers—Lieut.-Colonel Dobbin, slightly, shot in the breast; Lieutenant O'Fling, slightly, spent cannon shot in the shoulder.

Pennsylvania Volunteers—Major Wood, severely, musket shot in the arm and foot, and bruised by his horse being shot and falling on him; Quartermaster Maclay, severely, musket shots in the head and twice through the leg; Lieutenant Dick, severely, shot in the hand; Brigadier-General Porter was slightly wounded but declined being reported.

Officers missing:—

First Lieutenant Perry, 9th Infantry, a prisoner; Third Lieutenant Webster, 11th do., severely, shot in the head and taken prisoner; Lieutenants Sturgis, Keps, and Davidson, 22d Infantry, supposed to be killed.

Volunteers—Brigade-Major Stanton of New York, taken prisoner; Captain Roberts of Pennsylvania, taken prisoner; Lieutenant Hunt of New York, supposed to be killed.

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**Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 2nd, 1814.**

On the 25th instant the army, under command of Major-General Brown, camped above Chippawa near the battle ground of the 5th. At 4 p. m. information was received that the enemy had thrown a body of troops across the river at the Five-Mile Meadows, but the Commanding General was not diverted by this movement. The 1st Brigade, under General Scott, moved from Chippawa and halted at Bridgewater, a mile below Chippawa and near the Falls of Niagara. General S. learnt that the British force under Major-General Riall was approaching him. Battle was immediately given to the enemy near Mrs. Wilson's at half-past 5 p. m. Their cannon was placed about 200 yards from this position, on an eminence. The enemy's numerical force was much superior to General Scott's; his line was far extended, and he showed an inclination to flank. In order to counteract these views of General Riall, *he was fought in detachment, he was charged in column.* General S. was at the head of his troops in almost every charge. Captain Towson with his company of artillery attached to Scott's brigade kept up his fire

with great vigor and effect. The action was continued, and the ground maintained by General Scott for more than an hour before the reserve under General Ripley and the volunteers under General Porter were successfully brought into action.

The ground was obstinately contested until past 9 o'clock in the evening, when General Brown, perceiving that the enemy's artillery was most destructive, he decided to storm the *the battery*. Colonel Miller, the hero of Maguaga, was ordered on this enterprise; he approached the enemy's cannon with a quick step and delivered his fire within a few paces of the enemy's line, who, after having two or three fires and a vigorous charge, retreated to the bottom of the hill and abandoned the cannon. Only one piece was brought off the field, General Ripley's order not being executed or misunderstood. The enemy gave way and retreated, and our army was now employed in securing their prisoners and bringing off the wounded.

The cessation, however, was short. The enemy having received a reinforcement renewed the action, while our troops were employed in clearing the ground of wounded, but the gallant Americans formed with alacrity, and after an engagement of 20 m. the enemy was repulsed. The army now effected the removal of nearly if not all of the wounded and retired from the ground, it being nearly 12 o'clock at night. They returned to their encampment in good order. On the morning of the 26th our forces under Generals Ripley and Porter reconnoitred the enemy near the battle ground, returned and burnt Bridgewater Mills and all the enemy's barracks and the bridge at Chippawa and passed up the river to Fort Erie, where they made a stand.

The enemy's force engaged must have been nearly 5,000; ours short of that number. Major-General Riall was wounded and taken prisoner in the rear of his army by Captain Ketchum, together with one of his aids, the other being killed. An aid of Lieut.-General Drummond was made prisoner.

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Major-General Brown was severely wounded in the thigh (besides a contusion on his body) in the hottest of the action, but continued to command until the enemy retired. Brigadier-General Scott was also severely wounded by a grape in the shoulder, besides a severe bruise occasioned by a shell or cannon shot, having lost 2 horses killed. Colonel Brady, 22d Infantry, Majors Jesup, 25th; Leavenworth, 9th; McNeil, 11th; Brig.-Major Smith, Lieutenants Campbell, Smouck, Art.; Lieut. Worth, aid to Gen. S., Ensign Camp, 2d Rifle Regt., together with many others whose names we have not learnt, were wounded, some badly.

The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded was rising 800, exclusive of 200 regulars and 20 officers prisoners. Our loss in killed, wounded, and missing is from 600 to 700. Major McFarland, 23rd; Captain Ritchie, Art.; Captains Kinney, Hull and Goodrich, Lieutenant Bigelow, Inf., and other officers killed. Capt. Spencer, aid to General Brown, supposed to be mortally wounded but now said to be recovering. Major Stanton of N. Y. V., prisoner; Adj. Pew, Pa. V., killed. Major Camp of the staff lost two horses on the field, but escaped a wound.

The enemy's troops, who made a dash at Lewiston, drove away the guard under Colonel Swift, took a small quantity of baggage and the effects of several sutlers, killed one of the volunteers and recrossed the river, and some of them were in the action.

The army remain at Fort Erie. That place by great exertions has been rendered very strong.

The enemy has advanced from Chippawa and has taken a position near Frenchman's Creek, 4 miles below Fort Erie.

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**Major Stanton to General Porter.**

LITTLE YORK,  
UPPER CANADA, July 28th, 1814.

HONORED SIR,—I am unfortunately a prisoner of war. I crossed to this place yesterday in the *Star*, commanded by Captain Dobbs, who is a fine gentleman. I have been treated very politely by the British officers. I expect to move from this place to-day for the Lower Province. Capt. Roberts of the Pennsylvania line, Lieut. Johnson of the Dragoons, and some other prisoners will accompany me.

Sir, I wish you to send my trunk, valise and bedding to my family, likewise this letter.

I am wishing for your influence for my exchange.

I am, with great respect, yours, &c.,

P. STANTON,  
Prisoner of War.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**Return of 1st Brigade, Fort Erie, July 31st, 1814.**

	<i>Present for Duty.</i>		<i>Aggregate.</i>
	N. C. O. and Privates.	Officers.	Present and Absent.
9th Regt.....	139	8	569
11th do. ....	293	11	624
22nd do. ....	218	10	408
25th do. ....	255	7	676
General staff.....		4	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	905	40	2281
<b>2ND BRIGADE.</b>			
1st Regt.....	141	6	220
21st do. ....	441	20	849
23rd do. ....	292	12	713
General staff.....		4	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.....	874	42	1786

**Monthly Return of General Brown's Division, Fort Erie, July 31st, 1814.**

Bombardiers, &c.....	58	2	69
Light Dragoons, &c.....	47	1	64
Artillery Corps.....	241	12	364
First Brigade.....	905	40	2281
Second Brigade.....	874	42	1786
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.....	2125	97	4564

(From *Henry Adams's History of the United States. Vol. VIII., pp. 68-9.*)

**General Porter to Jasper Parrish.**

FORT ERIE, July 31st, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I have this moment received yours of the 27th. It is the wish of Major-General Brown that the eastern Indians should return to the army as soon as possible, and that you should send a message to them to this effect without loss of time. At a meeting of the chiefs, two days ago, they requested that I would send a message to the eastern Indians to return to Buffalo immediately. They at the same time sent runners to Tonewanta, Catteragus, and Allegany, and to-day many of their warriors are coming in.

The warriors will be promptly paid for their services—probably as soon as they return. But I cannot myself undertake to settle the question whether they will receive pay for the time they are visiting their homes against the wishes of the General and when their services are much needed.

As soon as your health will permit I shall be much gratified to see you here.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

### District General Order.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP BEFORE FORT ERIE,  
5th August, 1814.

Lieutenant-General Drummond has received the report of the officer to whose direction the force passed to the right bank of the river on the night of the 2nd inst. was confided. The indignation excited in the mind of the Lieut.-General from discovering that the failure of an expedition the success of which, by destroying the enemy's means of subsistence, would have compelled his force on this side to have surrendered to the troops by which he is invested, or by risking an action with the Lieutenant-General in the field to have met certain defeat, has been solely caused by the misbehavior of the troops employed on this honorable service, will not permit him to expatiate on a subject so unmilitary and disgraceful. He has only to intimate therefore, that as it is to the officers that the soldiers must ever look up for an example of intrepidity and devotion, it is also the duty of all officers to punish with death on the spot of any man under their command who may be found guilty of misbehavior before the enemy. To the troops most particularly alluded to it is the Lieutenant-General's determination to afford an immediate opportunity of at once effacing from his mind the impression which the report of the officers and *his own observation* have produced, and of averting that report of their conduct which he shall feel it his indispensable and imperious duty to lay at the feet of his Sovereign.

Crouching, ducking, or laying down when advancing under fire are bad habits, and must be corrected.

The Lieutenant-General is happy to find that the officers employed on the late expedition appear to have done their duty.

By order of Lieutenant-General Drummond.

J. HARVEY,

Lt.-Col., D. A. G.

(From Buffalo Gazette, 14th October, 1814.)

**Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 9th, 1814.**

On Wednesday morning last the enemy crossed Niagara River below Squaw Island, one mile below Black Rock, with a force said to be rising 1,000 regulars under Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker. They approached Black Rock, and were met at the Conjoqueta Creek before daylight by Major Morgan with less than 300 riflemen. A party of the enemy crossed the bridge over the creek, but were repulsed and the bridge taken up. The firing continued nearly three hours, when the enemy, finding every effort to cross the creek unavailing, recrossed the river.

During the action the enemy threw a number of shot and shells across the river.

The loss of the enemy must have been rising 50 killed, wounded, and missing. Some were found dead, and there were appearances of a number of bodies having been taken away during the battle. Six prisoners taken and three deserters. Our loss was 2 killed and 6 or 7 wounded, among whom were Captain Hamilton and Lieutenant McIntosh dangerously, and Lieutenant Wadsworth severely.

In this action Major Morgan and his corps have covered themselves with honor. The Major has been joined by Captain Birdsall with 150 riflemen since the action. The enemy, having been disappointed in gaining Buffalo, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon made a movement on our position at Fort Erie. They opened a fire on the fort from a large piece of artillery planted on a point about a mile below, which was answered from the fort and a schooner in the harbor. The enemy attacked our picquets with a large force, marched into the open ground in the rear of the fort, and commenced a heavy fire of musketry, which was warmly returned, and a brisk discharge from several pieces of artillery compelled him to retire in great confusion, leaving a number of his men on the field as the price of his temerity. The actual loss of the enemy we have not ascertained. We had a few wounded.

We have nothing important from the army at Fort Erie since the above. The enemy appears yet in considerable force opposite Black Rock. There has been skirmishing between the picquets almost every day during the past week, which are (*sic*) reported to be in our favor. On Saturday the enemy appeared in rear of the fort; he was met by a party of the riflemen and a smart skirmish ensued, in which, from the best information, he had 15 to 20 killed. Our loss was 4.

There has come in 6 or 7 deserters from the enemy within a few days past.

Brigadier-General Gaines has arrived at Fort Erie from Sackett's Harbor.

We understand that 1,000 militia have been requested by Major-General Brown from Major-General Hall's division; they will be commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Micah Brooks and are reported on their march for Buffalo.

### General Order.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
FORT ERIE, U. C., August 5th, 1814.

Brigadier-General Gaines takes command of the army at this post and on the Niagara frontier. He will look at the different corps in front of their tents respectively to-morrow, at 10 a. m., when the whole are to appear armed and supplied ready for action. Fatigue will cease this evening and recommence at 12 to-morrow.

Should the enemy be discovered to approach the fort in *force*, the officer on duty at the battery from which they are first discovered will fire a cannon, which shall be the signal for every man to be at his post ready for action. No man is to fire until he receives the order of his immediate commanding officer, when he will be careful to make his shot *tell*. The General persuades himself that the gallant corps which he has the honor to command will make the enemy recollect the scenes of *Chipparava* and the *Falls of Niagara*, where this army has covered itself with imperishable glory and secured the approbation of a grateful country.

By order, Brigadier-General Gaines.

C. K. GARDNER, Adjt.-Genl.

### J. C. Spencer to General Porter.

6 o'clock p. m., 6th August.

DEAR SIR,—I have this moment arrived from the British shore. My poor brother died yesterday, a victim to British inhumanity. I brought him over to-day, and buried him in the soil which he died in defending. Our fleet has *certainly* arrived—four ships and four brigs. The enemy were yesterday moving down their sick and wounded, and I have no doubt but that they will make a desperate attack on Fort Erie this night or will retire, for they are miserably deficient in provisions, as far as I can learn. A recollection of our conversation, and Assistant-Brigade-Major Fraser, and no one else,

will explain to you the (illegible) direction of this letter. Show this to no one but Fraser.

*(Written on the back of the following note:)*

"In forwarding the enclosures Lieutenant-Colonel Barney is directed to acquaint Captain Spencer that it has been some time ago intimated to General Brown that Lieutenant-General Drummond is ready to exchange Captain Spencer for Captain Loring, A. D. C., to the Lieutenant-General.

2nd August.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

### **Farmer's Brother's Speech, 7th August.**

Now I am going to answer your speech of last night. Your request was for some chiefs to come over to you now:

BROTHER,—You requested us to counsel among ourselves on the business of last night. That we have considered and counselled and took into consideration to council on the principle that you and General Brown mentioned when you arrived at Buffalo. We sent runners at your request to call in the warriors. You asked us if we would join you or if we would give you up. That we answered we would not give you up, as a last friend; that you know that we have lost a good many of our good friends; that we now have sent runners to every town, and they must come and answer for themselves; that the message that we sent for them to come to the Rock and stand in defence of their country; that you recollect that a few of the warriors was on that side of the river; that you told them you did not want them on that side of the river; that General Brown told us to collect all the warriors on this side; that General Brown must recollect that he told Jack Berry that the Indian warriors must stay on this side; that he told the Cataragus chiefs and warriors the same; that we and all that will come in will expect to be stationed at the Rock; that we are fully determined to stand in defence of our women and children.

That you recollect that we asked you if we would remove our women, and you said no.

Now, my friend, we will ask you a question:

What is the reason that your militia is all left this place: that we see every one of them is gone or going? That you must know that what few of us is here cannot fight the enemy; that we know and you know that a strong force is the main object in fighting.

You see, sir, that my opinion was correct, and I will go home.

R. FLEMING.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**General Porter to Governor Tompkins.**

FORT ERIE, U. C., August 9, 1814.

SIR,—Did I not know that General Brown had written to you on the subject, my duty would have required me before this time to inform that with a force not exceeding 25 or 2,700 effective men we are invested by the British army, estimated at 4,500, and by many at 5,000 men, composed of everything they could collect on this side of Kingston and 3 regiments (De Watteville, Glengarry, and 89th,) drawn from that post since the crossing of General Brown. They are preparing their batteries, which we cannot prevent as their working parties are in the wood, supported by their whole army, and should they not conclude to *storm* the place, will probably open upon us within twenty-four hours. What will be the result I know not, but our army is composed of stuff which will not yield to trifles. Its numbers and spirits must, however, waste rapidly under such a siege as we are to expect. Our position is a wretched one, closely surrounded by woods which are occupied by the enemy, and with no other defences excepting such as we have erected since our return from Chippawa.

Is it possible that the State of New York will sit with her arms folded and see this army, deserving a better fate, sacrificed? With 3,000 men, which, if there had been any patriotism in the country, would have been with us before this time, we should not only be relieved but we might *with certainty* capture the whole British army in thirty days. But it is characteristic of the present war not to act when wisdom and prudence require action, but to temporize until necessity, *absolute necessity*, drives us to it. Do not think that I despond. I feel prouder and richer and better than the miserable speculators who are hoarding up their go'd, regardless of their own or their country's character. We shall not fall. *If we do*, it will be after a struggle that that will reflect no dishonor upon ourselves, whatever it may upon the country.

I wish for your answer to my letter of the 31st. My command is such that I am sure you will not insist upon my staying here. I shall not, however, though discharged, leave this place until the crisis is passed.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**General Porter to General Gaines.**

FORT ERIE, August 15th, 1814.

SIR,—In the brilliant action of this morning, (affording in its most happy result the highest evidence of the skill as well as valor

with which it was fought,) it was the good fortune of but a small part of my brigade, and such indeed was the case with the infantry of the other brigades, to come to close action with the enemy.

Early in the action Captain Boughton of the N. Y. volunteers, with his dismounted dragoons and a detachment of 120 men, taken equally from the New York and Pennsylvania volunteers, under command of Captain Harding of the former, were sent to the support of the right of the army, comprising the space from the fort to the lake and defended by Capt. Foster's battalion of the 9th and Lieut. Douglass with two pieces of artillery. Capt. Boughton took post between Lieut. Douglass and the lake, and Capt. Harding between Capt. Foster and the fort, both without the benefit of intrenchments. The conduct of these several corps on the right of the fort, all commanded by Captain Foster and not exceeding 300 men, is spoken of in the highest terms of praise by every officer who visited that part of the line during the engagement, and was, I believe, witnessed by yourself. They were completely successful in repelling the left column of the enemy under Colonel Scott, which attacked and was intended to penetrate at that point. Some smaller detachments from my brigade, ordered to other points of attack, were immediately ordered back as being unnecessary.

The enemy showed some force, (now presumed to be the party under Lieutenant-Colonel Nichol,) in the margin of the woods opposite the centre of our line, and two or three officers on horseback approached to reconnoitre us in that direction, and every appearance indicated an immediate advance of a column on our centre, and I speak with great confidence when I say that a most anxious wish for the approach of such a column pervaded nine-tenths of the volunteer corps, and an unshaken determination to repel it at every extremity.

In short, Sir, I feel entirely satisfied with the conduct of the whole of my brigade, and I am fearful that your object in calling for this report, which is to ascertain the relative merits of particular men and corps, may not in this instance be attained, inasmuch as I should do injustice to others by naming any one, further than to state the particular duty to which it was assigned. Captain Harding's command went in pursuit of the enemy, after his retreat, for some distance, and captured and brought in a small party, and killed their officer, who refused to surrender.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**Jasper Parrish to General Porter.**

BUFFALO, August 15th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I received your letter while I was at Canandaigua and immediately sent on the contents of it to the chiefs of the Oneida and Onondaga Indians, with a request for them to return immediately. I have not heard from it as yet.

I came here three days ago; brought on and paid over six thousand dollars to the Seneca Nation, being their annuity.

Since I left home my lame foot has gathered and broke. It has become a bad running sore. I can move but a little distance without my horse. My present calculation is to return home on Wednesday next in the stage, as I cannot stand it to ride a horseback so far. If you should have any commands please to let me hear from you.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**General E. P. Gaines to General Porter.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE, U. C.,

August 16th, 1814.

SIR,—You are hereby authorized to accept for the U. S. the services of four thousand volunteers, or less, for one, two or three months, unless sooner discharged by proper authority, to rendezvous, be organized, mustered, inspected, and provisioned at or near Williamsville, as soon as practicable; to have the choice of their own officers according to law, and be subject to the same rules and regulations, receive the same pay, and be provided for in case of being killed or wounded, &c., as United States volunteers, agreeable to law. This corps will not be ordered on duty unusual or improper for this description of force.

I shall not undertake to persuade my young countrymen to come out to the tented field. They have heard the eloquence of our cannon for some days past. This, I am sure, is fully sufficient to excite their military ardour and call them to the field, where American troops if true to themselves will never fail to reap honorable victory over foreign slaves and mercenaries.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**Brigade Order.**

FORT ERIE, August 16th, 1814.

Br.-General Porter is ordered to the eastward for a few days by the Com'g General on a command highly interesting to his brigade and to the army at large. Lt.-Col. Dobbin will also be absent for about the same period.

During the absence of the Brigadier the command of the brigade will devolve on Colonel Swift. He being, however, now on the opposite side of the river and in a bad state of health, Lt.-Col. Willcox, the next senior officer of the brigade, will take command until his arrival. Gen'l. Porter entrusts the command to either of these gentlemen with great confidence, and is confident that their orders will be promptly obeyed.

Brigade-Major Fraser will accompany General Porter, and during his absence Adjutant Dobbin will perform the duties of his office.

The high character which the volunteers have established throughout the country by their orderly and gallant conduct, he trusts will be maintained during his absence.

Maj. Wood will command the Pennsylvania and Major Matteson the New York Volunteers.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

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**Lieutenant-Colonel E. D. Wood, U. S. Engineers, to General Ripley.**

FORT ERIE, August 15th, 1814:

SIR,—In obedience to your instructions, I have the honor to report the gallant conduct of my command during the attack which took place on the night of the 14th instant.

I cannot do greater justice to the troops which I had the honor to command on that occasion than to state that the 21st Infantry, together with a small detachment of the 11th under Captain Chunn, in all about three hundred men, aided by the skill and activity of that distinguished officer, Captain Towson of the Artillery, who commanded the battery on Snake Hill, met and repulsed five impetuous charges given by Colonel Fisher at the head of fourteen hundred British regulars. These troops were formed in columns of attack, and stormed without flints in their muskets. Our lines were completely manned, and everything ready to receive the enemy when he approached. And perhaps a more signal example of firmness and steady valor was seldom, if ever, given by the veterans of Europe. Finding himself repulsed at all points with great slaughter, Colonel Fisher saw fit to retire with his shattered columns at dawn of day.

For the happy result which crowned our arms at this particular point I am under great obligations to Captains Marston and Ropes, the former of whom commanded on the left, and the latter commanded the corps of reserves which repulsed the enemy at the edge

of the water after he had turned the left of the *abatis* and completely gained my rear. Captain Chunn, who commanded on my right, had not the good fortune to come in contact with the enemy until he was sent to reinforce the garrison at Fort Erie, where he had a fair opportunity and behaved with great skill and bravery in expelling the enemy from that place. The small reinforcements of riflemen which arrived before the enemy made his last charge, under that brave officer, Captain Birdsall, rendered me considerable service.

Lieutenants Bowman, Riddle, Hall, Larned, and Ensigns Bean, Neely, Green, Jones, Cumming and Thomas were all extremely active, and performed their duty with alacrity. I have to regret that the army is deprived of the services of Lieutenant Bushnell and Ensign Cissney, both of whom are severely if not mortally wounded. Our trophies in the morning were about one hundred and twenty prisoners and a considerable number of scaling ladders, picks, axes, &c.

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**Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 16th August, 1814.**

Our army at Fort Erie continues almost daily to skirmish with the enemy, which is principally confined to the attack of piquets on both sides. There has been more or less cannonading every day during the week past, without any material advantage to either. On Wednesday a party of riflemen under Captain Birdsall attacked and drove in the enemy's picket. They lost from 15 to 20 killed. We lost only one man. On Friday last Major Morgan with a detachment from his rifle corps attacked the enemy in the skirts of the woods back of the fort, and after a brisk musketry of some time, retired to the fort with the loss of 10 or 12 killed, among whom, we regret to say, was that excellent officer, Major Ludowick Morgan, of the 1st Rifle Regiment, who so gallantly repulsed the enemy at Conjockey Creek on the morning of the 3d instant. He was interred at Buffalo on Saturday, with all the honors due his rank and distinguished bravery.

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**Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 16, 1814.**

Two companies of the 19th Regiment arrived in Buffalo on Thursday evening last from Erie, Pa.

The detached militia, under Lieutenant-Colonel Brooks, are stationed at Williamsville.

**Vice-Admiral Sir A. Cochrane to James Monroe, Secretary of State.**

H. B. M. Ship *Tonnant*, in the  
Patuxent River, 18th August, 1814.

SIR,—Having been called upon by the Governor-General of the Canadas to aid him in carrying into effect measures of retaliation against the inhabitants of the United States for the wanton destruction committed by their army in Upper Canada, it has become imperiously my duty, conformably with the nature of the Governor-General's application, to issue to the naval force under my command an order to destroy and lay waste such towns and districts upon the coast as may be found available.

I had hoped that this contest would have terminated without my being obliged to resort to severities that are contrary to the usage of civilized warfare, and as it has been with extreme reluctance and concern that I have found myself compelled to adopt this system of devastation, I shall be equally gratified if the conduct of Executive of the United States will authorize my staying such proceedings, by making reparation to the suffering inhabitants of Upper Canada, thereby manifesting that if the destructive measures pursued by their army were ever sanctioned they will no longer be permitted by the Government.

(*Canadian Archives*, Q, 129, p. 150.)

**General Peter B. Porter to the Militia of Western New York.**  
*To the Militia of the Western Counties of New York:*

The Commander in Chief has ordered a portion of the militia to the western frontier, and thought proper to place them under my command. You will indulge me, because I am probably better acquainted with the state of things to the west than most of you, to make a few remarks on the subject of this call.

The Niagara frontier at this moment presents a scene infinitely more interesting to you than any you have witnessed since the settlement of the country. Two hostile armies of nearly equal force, not a mile distant from each other, obstinately contending for mastery, which a few days must necessarily decide. In these two armies are concentrated all the disposable military force and all the arms and munitions of war of the Province of Upper Canada and of the western parts of the State of New York, and on the result of the contest which must shortly ensue will depend the fate of these countries respectively. Should the enemy succeed there is nothing on this side Utica that can resist his force or escape his ravages. In

the late attack on Erie, so gloriously repulsed, he had 400 savages in sight of our intrenchments, ready to leap in should the scales of victory incline to his side, and complete the work of destruction, and this same scourge will follow him through the country the moment that the army, its only barrier, shall be broken down.

The enemy are not asleep nor do they look with listless indifference to those who are fighting *their* battles. They will push on reinforcements as fast as their scanty means and devastated country will permit. Now is the time for *us* to act. We abound with men and means, and by a prompt and cheerful compliance with the order of the Commander-in-Chief, and by that means only we can effect a certain and easy conquest and give permanent security to our settlements.

If the fate of the gallant little army which for six weeks past has been wading through fields of blood for your security, composed in part, too, of your own immediate neighbors and friends, cannot move you to action, I admonish you to recollect that on the support, and immediate and vigorous support, of that army depends your own security. That army destroyed, and your fruitful fields, your stately edifices, and your fair possessions are laid waste. Your women and children will feel the weight of the tomahawk. Nay, even liberty itself, without which those blessings are of no estimation in a patriot's heart, will forsake a country so unworthy of her protection.

At the request of the Commander-in-Chief I came to this place (where I unexpectedly met the order of His Excellency) for the purpose of obtaining volunteers, and hoping that I might have some little influence in awakening our young men to a sense of the country's danger and their own honor. But what can I expect to effect with those whose ardor cannot be aroused by the eloquence of the cannon with which the Niagara is continually resounding? Those, however, who may choose to volunteer, will be received as part of the detachment ordered by the Commander-in-Chief, and I shall return immediately to Erie, proud to share the destiny of its brave defenders, whatever they may be. But I do not return without hopes of soon meeting at the appointed place of rendezvous such of you, at least, as the constituted authorities of the country have called on for support.

P. B. PORTER, Brig.-Gen.

Canandaigua, August 21, 1814.

(From *Buffalo Gazette*, Tuesday, Aug. 30, 1814.)

### State of New York—General Order.

The Commander-in-Chief, under and pursuant to the Act of Congress passed 28th February, 1795, and the Acts supplementary and additional thereto, directs the following detachments of infantry to be made from the division commanded by Major-General Hall, exclusive of the requisition made by Major-General Brown for one thousand men, which Major-General Hall is also required to complete. The detachment required by this order will be made without any delay, and are directed to rendezvous at Williamsville, in the County of Niagara, on the 1st day of September next, where they will be organized :

From the brigade of General Tillotson, Cayuga county, 1,000 men.

General Graham, Seneca county, 350.

General Burnet, east part of Ontario, 560.

General Wadsworth, west part of Ontario, 560.

General McClure, Steuben county, 350.

General Davis, Genesee county, 180.

And all the companies of grenadiers, riflemen, and light infantry within the counties of Cayuga and Seneca, together with the artillery companies in Auburn and Genesee, are also directed to assemble at the same place of rendezvous on the first day of September next. Independent companies, companies of exempts, and other associations who tender their services are to be accepted and organized by General Peter B. Porter, who will command the whole detachment.

Every soldier must furnish himself with a musket or rifle, knapsack, canteen, cartridge box, three flints, a watch coat, and clothing for three months. Those who are unable to equip themselves with muskets and rifles or cartridge boxes will be supplied from the public deposit, but it is required by the Commander-in-Chief that all who can supply themselves should do so. The militia thus detached will be organized into companies of 100, including one captain, two lieutenants, two ensigns, five sergeants, six corporals, one drummer, and one fifer to each company. The companies will be formed into regiments of 1,000 men as near as may be, including officers, with two lieutenant-colonels and two majors as field officers. Brigadier-General Peter B. Porter will have the immediate command of the whole detachment, subject to the orders and directions of the Commander-in-Chief. Lieutenant-Colonels Hugh W. Dobbin, Peter Allen, Caleb Hopkins, George W. Flemming, and James McBurney, and Majors Thomas Lee, Jr., Daniel Cruger, Eranthus Everts, and Eben. Willson of Genesee are assigned to the respective regiments in this detachment; the remainder of the

field and staff officers will be assigned by Brigadier-General Peter B. Porter. The captains and subalterns will be assigned by the commandants of the respective brigades. The independent uniform companies will be commanded by their own officers or by so many of their own officers as will be in proportion to the number of men, and if, on their arrival at the place of rendezvous, the officers of any corps be more than in proportion to the number of men, such supernumerary officers as the commandant of the whole detachment shall direct will be discharged. The troops will receive the same accommodation and pay as are provided for the army.

The Commander-in-Chief feels assured that the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates will evince the greatest alacrity in complying with this order. The present situation of our country loudly demands vigorous exertions. The Niagara frontier presents a scene which must necessarily arouse the feelings of Americans and urge them on to the relief of their countrymen. On one side of the river an important American post in possession of the enemy — on the other, Fort Erie occupied by the American army. The latter pressed by a superior force without the power of retreating. Too great a delay may enable the enemy to reinforce in such numbers as to become irresistible to the troops now across the Niagara, and that gallant little army, the hardy remnant of several well fought battles, in which they have as often defeated as they have engaged their foe, will fall a sacrifice to the want of patriotism and philanthropy, to the inertness and the apathy of their fellow-citizens. Should this army be destroyed the whole of the western frontier of this State will be exposed to the ravages, the devastation, the burnings, and the murders of a merciless foe.

The Commander-in-Chief has, however, the utmost confidence that not a man will be called on at the present time whose arm will not be raised in defence of his country, and who will not feel the responsibility of his conduct and bring a corresponding zeal to the place where his duty and the safety of his fellow-citizens require his presence.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

JOHN B. YATES,  
Lieut.-Col. and Aid-de-Camp.

(From Buffalo Gazette, August 30, 1814.)

**Division Orders.**

HEADQUARTERS,  
BLOOMFIELD, 22d August, 1814.

Pursuant to General Orders of this date, the Commandants of Brigades will detail the requisite number of officers and men agreeable to the apportionment and direction for equipment directed to be made therein, and order them to march without delay to the place of rendezvous.

The Commandants of Brigades will also complete the requisition of 1000 men, directed to be detached by a division order of the 29th ult., and unless such requisition shall be completed without recourse to a new draft, orders will be given by Commandants of Brigades to Commandants of Regiments to complete their several complements directed to be detailed by that order, and see them marched forthwith to the place of rendezvous appointed, and report themselves to Lieutenant-Colonel Micah Brooks.

The Major General in addition to the incentives held forth in the General Order for promptitude at this eventful crisis, can only appeal to the pride of both officers and soldiers of his division, exhorting them not to suffer themselves to be surpassed in their exertions by the other divisions of the State, at a time of universal alarm, when personal inconvenience ought to be sacrificed for the public weal.

The General is persuaded that the good name of his division, acquired by former exertions, will not at this time be tarnished by an indifference to this righteous call of their country.

A. HALL,  
Major-General.

By Heman Norton, A. D. C.

(*From Buffalo Gazette, August 30, 1814.*)

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**Buffalo Gazette, 23d August, 1814.**

Ninety men of the 21st Regiment, under Lieut. Pratt, have arrived at Buffalo.

The enemy's loss in deserters is very considerable; 6 or 7 come in at a time.

During the week past the enemy have frequently troubled our picquets, but keep at a respectful distance from the fort. On Saturday a smart skirmish ensued, which was supported on both sides, and it continued warmly for 20 or 30 minutes. We lost Lieut. Yates of the rifle corps, and 6 or 7 men killed. Another lieutenant of the same corps was wounded. The loss of the enemy is supposed to be much greater.

**General Brown to General P. B. Porter.**

AURORA, Aug. 25th, 1814.

DEAR GENRL.,—I intend to arrive at Canandaigua in the course of Tuesday next, on my way to Fort Erie. If you have not left that place upon the receipt of this I desire you to remain until my arrival, as I have some important intelligence to communicate to you.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

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**Colonel Edward Baynes to Lieutenant-General Sir Gordon Drummond.**

*(An Intercepted Letter.)*

HEADQUARTERS,  
MONTREAL, August 26th, 1814.

SIR,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Commander of the Forces to inform you that the 37th Regiment will commence its march to-morrow morning for Kingston, on which point it is His Excellency's intention to direct the other corps composing the brigade under the orders of Major General Kempt.

If the naval equipment is in that state of forwardness to sanction the undertaking, the attack, and if necessary to Lieutenant-General Drummond, the siege of Sackett's Harbor, in which the squadron must be prepared fully to co-operate before the advanced state of the season renders such an operation hazardous and difficult, it is His Excellency's wish to avail himself of the local information and talents of Major General Kempt, by employing him as the senior Major General on this service, and with that view His Excellency would approve of Major General Stovin proceeding to the Right Division when relieved, and leaving to Major General Kempt the necessary preparatory arrangements for this arduous and important service. Should this, however, as His Excellency is apprehensive, prove to be the case that the delay in naval arrangements may frustrate his views on Sackett's Harbor, he still trusts that our squadron will be able to take the lake with a superiority that will enable him completely to relieve all the wants of Right Division, and not only to secure effectually our own frontier, but to scour that of the enemy, destroy his means of annoyance, and on this service he would propose to employ the force to be collected at Kingston.

*(From the Buffalo Gazette, October 4th, 1814.)*

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**General George McClure to General P. B. Porter.**

BATH, 26th August, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—My Brigade Major, John Wilson, is anxious to be employed. He is a vigilant and active officer. Should you think proper to assign him a command you will please inform him or me by express mail. The detachment from my brigade is ordered to assemble at this place on the 30th inst., and will proceed with all possible speed to Williamsville via Canandaigua.

I fear there will be but a small proportion of them appear on the day of rendezvous, and unless some effectual mode of punishing delinquents is speedily adopted future calls on militia will be useless. Such is the language of those who have and are still willing to do their duty.

I sincerely congratulate you on your good success so far. I trust the campaign will terminate much to your honor and the glory of our American arms. Should Chauncey continue to ride triumphant on the lake we would have but little fear on our frontier.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, August 30, 1814.**

Since last paper the enemy have fired upon the encampment at Fort Erie and done considerable mischief with shells and round shot, but keep *their distance* from the works. On Saturday Lieut. Felton of Clarence, belonging to General Porter's volunteers, was killed. We learn that about 20 men were killed and wounded the same day.

On Sunday Brigadier-General Gaines was wounded by the bursting of a shell, which produced a severe contusion in the side. Brevet Brig.-Gen. Miller commands at Fort Erie.

Seventy troops, belonging to the 11th Infantry, have joined their regiment at Fort Erie from Burlington, Vt.

About 20 Indians appeared at Lewiston last week and captured several horses. The inhabitants have removed back beyond the 11-Mile Woods.

A dragoon and a soldier belonging to the 25th Regt., taken prisoners at the Falls, escaped from the hospital near Fort George and crossed the Niagara on a raft of rails. They state that the enemy burnt our dead that were left on the field at the battle of the Falls, and corroborate the account of the enemy being very sickly.

The British *hung*, on the 20th July, eight citizens at Burlington

for treason ; six more were sentenced, but respited until the pleasure of the Prince Regent was known. A Mr. Hopkins, formerly from this side and who carried on the saddlery business at or near Queenston, was *hung* last week, since which his widow has crossed at Lewiston.

**Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, 30th August, 1814.**

On Thursday last at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy attacked our outposts in the edge of the woods north of Fort Erie. Captain Wattles of the 23d Infantry was ordered to support the picket with 100 men. The enemy was driven to his defences and opened a fire from his line. Before our party retired, Captain Wattles and 2 privates were killed and 4 or 5 privates wounded. 30 British muskets were picked up where the enemy commenced the attack.

**Return of Division of United States Troops at Fort Erie, August 31st, 1814.**

	<i>Present for Duty.</i>		<i>Aggregate.</i>
	N. C. O. and Privates.	Officers.	Present and Absent.
Dragoons . . . . .	27	1	48
Bombardiers, &c. . . . .	34		51
Artillery Corps . . . . .	206	10	369
First Brigade . . . . .	725	39	2311
Second do. . . . .	698	42	1646
Porter's do. . . . .	220	16	599
First and Fourth Rifles . . .	217	11	504
Total . . . . .	2127	119	5528

*(From Henry Adams's History of the United States, Vol. VIII., p. 83.)*

**Lieutenant-Colonel George Fleming to General Porter.**

WILLIAMSVILLE, September 4th, 1814,  
Half-past 11 o'clock a. m.

DEAR SIR,—I have this instant received your letter by express. I was just about setting out for Buffalo when it was handed to me. Since my receiving information yesterday that the militia are to be organized at Buffalo, I have exerted myself and got them to go immediately and without the least delay at this place.

They who were absolutely in want of provisions, got them served to them immediately. The militia have continually, since my arrival here, been flocking in by companies and passing on, and I am happy to find they continue in high spirits and full of fight. Colonel Nicholas had teams ready to take the spare muskets on prior to my receiving your letter. Two companies of riflemen are now marching in here. As soon as they draw provisions, which they are now in immediate want of, they will pass on. I assure you I have been very busy in getting the militia on before and since I arrived here. On my leaving this place, Colonel Nicholas will continue directing the militia to go on.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**Major-General Brown to Commodore Chauncey.**

HEADQUARTERS.

BUFFALO, September 4th, 1814.

SIR,—Your letter of the 10th ult., after going the rounds, was delivered to me a few days since on my way to this place.

The exception you take at my letter to the Secretary would be very reasonable and proper, provided the fleet of Lake Ontario was your private property, over which the Government had no control. But as I have been induced to believe that it was the property of the nation, subject to the orders of the Government, and as the Government led me to believe that the fleet under your command would be upon Lake Ontario to co-operate with my division of the army the first week in July, I have deemed it but proper to let the nation know that the support I had a right to expect was not afforded. I consider my conduct towards yourself and the navy not only honorable, but, Sir, as being very liberal and friendly, from the date of my report of the battle of Sackett's Harbor to the present time. The troops under my command have always been disposed of so as to meet your views to the extent of my power and authority, and as far as was consistent with the rights and honor of the army.

Your information appears very incorrect as to the situation of the army previous to the arrival of reinforcements under Lieutenant-General Drummond. From the ninth of July to the 24th, the whole country was in our power from Fort George to Burlington Heights, and could the army have been supplied with provisions from the depots provided on the shores of Lake Ontario, we should not have doubted our ability (without reinforcements or additional guns) to carry the Heights, when we could have returned upon

Forts George and Niagara or advanced upon Kingston (as might have been thought most advisable) with the co-operation of the fleet.

You speak of responsibility. I do not desire you or any man to be responsible for me. I have endeavored to execute the orders given me. Success has not attended my endeavors, but I humbly trust in heaven that the honor of the brave men entrusted to my command has been and will be preserved, let what may, happen.

It will be very difficult to retire from Fort Erie, pressed as the remains of my gallant little army are by a superior force of the enemy. But no other alternative will be left unless reinforcements speedily arrive. The militia are coming in in very considerable numbers, but it is not yet ascertained how many of them will cross. The Secretary has given me to understand that General Izard would move to the St. Lawrence with a view of attacking Kingston, (should he and you deem that measure advisable); should you decide otherwise, that General Izard would come with or send me a reinforcement of from two to three thousand men.

I have not heard from General Izard, and begin to apprehend that something has occurred to retard or prevent his movement. I will thank you for any information you can give me on this subject.

*(From Niles' Register, Baltimore, Saturday, October 29th, 1814.)*

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**Major A. Matteson to General Ripley.**

FORT ERIE, Sept. 5th, 1814.

SIR,—In obedience to your request, I transmit a hasty detail of the affair of yesterday. About half-past 2 o'clock p. m., Col. Willcocks called on me and signified that it was your pleasure the N. Y. Volunteers should immediately march to reinforce picket No. 2. At the call officers and men rallied with an alertness that evinced a spirit to avenge our country's wrongs, and in about twenty minutes all our corps on the ground fit for duty were on the march, but owing to the late extreme fatigue we did not muster more than about 100 rank and file, exclusive of those on duty and officers commanding in the expedition. We proceeded on the line of the sentinels of No. 2 to its extreme right, where Col. Willcocks called a council of such officers as could in our disagreeable situation (on account of the fallen timber) be called together without delaying our progress. On account of some recent occurrences the Col. expressed a delicacy in ordering, and desired that I should command the troops. Perceiving, as I did, that his undaunted valor had acquired the entire confidence of officers and soldiers, I told him I

would follow where he would lead. On a momentary consultation a charge was agreed on, with a determination to drive the enemy from their position. The companies of Captains Harding, Freeman, and Davis attacked and pursued them through an avenue in the fallen timber on the right, while Captains Hull, Knapp, and Lieut. Hathaway, commanding Capt. Tozer's company, who was sick at the time, endeavored to flank them through another avenue on our left. On the right we immediately drove them from their position and entered within their outer breastwork in fair view of their battery, where we maintained our position about 15 or 20 minutes, when Col. Willcocks received a mortal wound by a shot through the right breast, when he, together with all those injured, were bore off. Discovering their force to be vastly superior to ours and rapidly reinforcing, we gave them two volleys, a cheer for victory, and retired in good order. In the meantime Captains Hull, Knapp, and Lieut. Hathaway were engaged, and driving them until they were reinforced and prudence required that they should cheer their victory and retire, which they performed, in unison with those on the right. Of the officers and men generally engaged, I can proudly say they, (agreeably to my view,) behaved with spirit and manner characteristic of Spartan bravery, and all appeared anxious to excel in ardor of pursuit and all obedient to orders given. Of Col. Willcocks I take pleasure in announcing that in every movement he behaved worthy of a hero and a patriot. Calm and unruffled, he rushed on in defence of our country's rights until he fell entwined with the laurels of glory. Capts. Harding, Hull, Lt.-Col. Satterlee, who volunteered his services to command Capt. Freeman's company (who was sick, absent), and Capt. Knapp, together with Lieuts. Roosevelt and Hathaway, commanding Capts. Davis' and Tozer's companies (who were sick, absent), contributed greatly in facilitating every movement. Their steady and determined manner characterized them as worthy of the name of true *American Warriors*. I cannot speak too highly of their efforts to aid my exertions. Gr.-Mastr. Green, Asst. Br.-Maj. Dobbin, and Act. Adj. Gilbert volunteered their services and participated in all the dangers of the battle, and from them I found great assistance, and found them meritorious in common with the other officers. It is impossible for me to ascertain the loss of the enemy, but by the discovery of several dead bodies on the ground over which we advanced their loss must have been extremely severe in comparison to ours. I transmit a schedule of the loss in killed and wounded.

*Schedule.*

Lieut.-Col. Willcox, } killed.  
 Lieut. Roosevelt, }  
 1 sergt., mortally wounded.  
 2 do. slightly do.  
 1 corporal, do. do.  
 2 privates, killed.  
 2 do. slightly wounded.  
 1 missing in action.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**Major Matteson to Brigadier-General Porter.**

I have thought fit to transmit you a copy of my report of yesterday to General Ripley, and to remark that on delivery of the report to the General he expressed great satisfaction and remarked that it was a critical action, and informed me that by the best information he could obtain by deserters who have come into camp, that the loss on the part of the enemy in this affair was, in killed 1 major, 1 captain, 2 subalterns and about 100 rank and file killed, wounded and missing. I would further remark that in the body of my report to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Ripley, in mentioning the officers engaged, I omitted Ensign Wickwire of Captain Tozer's company and Jones of Captain Knapp's, who I found were engaged on the left and acted with great bravery.

A. MATTESON,  
 Maj. Com'g. N. Y. Vol.

Fort Erie, September 6th, 1814.

N. B.—You will have the goodness to show this to Major Markle and other officers of the same corps, as it may be a gratification to them on account of the present sentiments of the N. Y. Vols. towards the late Col. Willcocks. A. M.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**Organization Order.**

BUFFALO, Sept. 6, 1814.

The following companies are attached to Lt.-Col. Dobbin's regiment, viz.:

Capt. Parker's company	of detached militia	from Seneca.	
" Fleming's	do	do	do
" Colegrove's	do	do	do

Capt. Richardson's company riflemen.

" Swick's do do

" Butler's do do

Lt.-Col. Dobbin will proceed with all possible despatch to organize the above companies, drill, and prepare them for active service.

P. B. PORTER,  
Br.-Gen'l. Com'g.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**Asa-Danforth to General Porter and Jasper Parrish.**

ONONDAGA, 7th September, 1814.

GENTLEMEN,—In the absence of Mr. Hopper your letter, enclosing one directed to the chiefs and warriors of the Onondaga Nation, was received by his deputy and the latter was handed by him to me for the purpose of communicating to the Indians. I immediately attended to it, but found so many of them sick with the smallpox that I did not deem it advisable for them to hold a council or to go to the frontier in their present situation. This disorder, which was brought by some of them from the Niagara frontier, I am sorry to say continues among them, and has carried off a number of them. Vaccination has, however, been lately used among them, and I am in hopes will prevent the further progress of the disorder. I have no doubt that they would have immediately joined our standard had their situation permitted of it.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**General Order.**

BUFFALO, Sept. 8, 1814.

It is impossible for Br. Gen'l. Porter to express the pride and satisfaction which he feels at the highly military appearance and orderly conduct exhibited by the militia and volunteers during the review and parade of yesterday, and at their exemplary and meritorious deportment generally since their arrival in camp. The progress in discipline made by Col. Allen's regiment in three days was perhaps never surpassed. Indeed, the greatest credit is due to almost every corps for their great exertions.

In the assembling of large bodies of militia we have too often witnessed a disposition in many of them to noise, disturbance, and disorganization. We have seen men acting as if they considered

themselves as the lawful enemies of their country's service and taking pleasure in a course of conduct which, so far as they have dared to indulge it, is calculated to defeat the very objects for which they are called into service.

On the present occasion it must afford heartfelt satisfaction to every patriot and soldier to observe the militia cheerfully enduring many privations which the peculiar situation of the country has rendered indispensable, striving who shall best learn and do their duty, considering their country's interests and their own inseparably connected.

If such a spirit happily continues, all, and more than our country expects, will be easily accomplished, and like a band of brothers we shall very shortly return to the bosoms of our families, satisfied with ourselves and cheered by the gratitude of our country.

P. B. PORTER,

Br.-Genl. Comg.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**General Brown to General P. B. Porter.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE,

September 8th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—I have ordered every tent from Buffalo, and that the sick and wounded be put into the houses. In times like these we must look to nothing but the great interests of our country, and therefore I shall this day also order that the sick and wounded at Williamsville be also put into the nearest houses that can be found, and the tents forwarded to this-place. It is painful to me to be compelled to resort to this measure, but I find it my duty, as I have no other means of covering the men under your command.

You will order over the best regiment you have as soon as possible; the tents from Buffalo will cover them. Let me know when we may expect your whole force. My opinion is that we shall not gain by delay as it may relate to your command. General Izard is said to be in motion. I shall be better informed upon this subject in the course of a day or two. Send over a regiment to-day if practicable; if not to-day, as soon as possible—say to-night or to-morrow.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**General Brown to General P. B. Porter.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE,

September 8th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—Major Barton has fully explained to me your sentiments. He has induced me to believe that the militia to the amount of three thousand will cross in the course of to-morrow evening. The more the better as you will know, but this number will, I trust in heaven, enable us to beat the enemy and save the gallant remains of this army and shield the frontier of our state from devastation and ruin. I have explained to Major Barton my sentiments. Keep your own secrets. Cross as early to-morrow evening as possible. Commence crossing by dusk so as to be sure of getting over in the course of the night, *and the early part of the night*, that we may settle our fortunes the next morning before the enemy can be advised of our intentions. This will do much for us, as the enemy will not believe without further evidence that the militia of New York have sufficient soul and patriotism to do their duty.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**General Brown to the New York Militia.**

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ERIE,

9th September, 1814.

*To the Militia Forces Assembled at Buffalo :*

The army under my command only waits your arrival to relieve us from the endeavors of the enemy to drive us from this position, in which, if they succeed, the devastation of the western part of New York inevitably follows. Besides your own safety, your patriotism must give you zeal in adopting this course at once. I shall expect you all to cross this evening. I have explained all my views to Brig.-General Porter and the officers in company with him.

JAC. BROWN,  
Maj.-Genrl.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

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**General Orders.**

BUFFALO, Sept. 11th, 1814.

On Gen'l. Porter's leaving Buffalo this morning, Maj. Cruger will take command of the post.

Major Cruger will consolidate and organize the remnants of companies left on this side, assign to them proper officers, arm such as are destitute, and put them in a state of preparation for active operations as speedily as possible.

The sick of the several corps of volunteers and militia will be placed in some convenient houses, and surgeons assigned to take charge of them.

Major Cruger will send a company of 60 men, with proper officers, to Williamsville, to report to the commanding officer and remain there as a guard. The British prisoners and deserters in the provost will be sent to Williamsville under charge of this guard. The provost marshal will furnish a list of their names.

Maj. Cruger will station piquets at B. Rock and Miller's and at such other places as he may judge most proper for the security of the post and to take up deserters. In short, Gen'l. Porter relies on the Major to place the distracted materials now left under his command in the best and most effective state, and have them ready to march. He will send across to Erie from time to time such as may volunteer to go there.

Major Cady will organize the militia of Gen'l. Davis's brigade, consulting with Major Cruger.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**Major Daniel Cruger to General Porter.**

BUFFALO, September 12th, 1814.

SIR,—The "materials" under my command at this place are still in a "distracted state," officers as well as men. From the want of intelligence as well as a disposition on the part of the officers, I cannot find one under my command that will answer for a quartermaster. I have therefore to request of you that you will be so good as to permit Quartermaster Graham to remain with me.

I expect that you continue to receive from this side volunteers. Bad provisions and incomplete rations will make patriots though a love of country will not.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**Report of Hospital Surgeon Lovell of the State of Diseases among  
the Troops on the Niagara Frontier During the  
Campaign of 1814.**

The troops engaged in this brilliant campaign on the Niagara began to collect there about the beginning of April, under the command of General Scott. They were encamped on an eminence north of Buffalo village, having a thick wood in front which extended to the bank of the river, the ground being in part swampy and wet. On the left of the encampment was a large marsh extending from the high ground to the margin of the lake. The winds from the lake at this season were remarkably cold and chilling; resembling in sensation exactly the east winds which prevail on the Atlantic during the spring, and have an astonishing effect upon vegetation, the trees around the encampment having the appearance of winter, while those five or six miles from the lake shore were covered with verdure. Notwithstanding this, the troops were remarkably healthy, only one or two deaths occurring before they crossed the the Niagara on the 3rd of July—even the demon diarrhoea appeared to have been exorcised by the mystical power of strict discipline and rigid police.

In June a number of new recruits joined the army, and several were collected from the various hospitals, the latter principally composed of the miserable refuse of society who never had energy to demonstrate that they lived, and scarcely enough to prove that they existed. With these last detachments arrived our old acquaintances, which, however, were easily checked, and much seldomer returned than in any former campaign. This was undoubtedly to be attributed to the improvement in police.

During June the weather became very warm, and a thick fog arose from the marsh and woods at sunset and remained for sometime after sunrise. During this month intermittent, acute rheumatism and typhus fever were the prevailing complaints. The intermittents were very irregular and obstinate \* \* \* \*

Rheumatism during the whole war generally put on a remitting form. This was particularly obvious whenever intermittent fever prevailed, and more especially this season.

Many of the cases of typhus, about the end of May, were remarkably severe.

On the first of August a general hospital was established at Williamsville, eleven miles east from Buffalo. The number of sick during the remainder of the season at this place varied from 3 to 400; the number of wounded being somewhat greater.

The troops suffered much during the siege of Fort Erie, and

soon after it was raised the rainy season commenced. Dysentery and diarrhoea were the principal diseases.

About the end of September a large detachment of militia crossed the Niagara under General P. B. Porter. Diarrhoea, typhus and idiopathic dysentery very soon made their appearance among them; the two latter were extremely severe.

(From Mann's *Medical History of the War.*)

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**Lieut.-General Drummond to Sir George Prevost.**

Letter of Sept. 19th, 1814.

N. B.

This letter was inadvertently printed as it appeared in the *London Gazette* of 16th November, 1814.—See Part I., pp. 204-6. The following omissions and alterations were made in the original manuscript:

After *Sir* in first line the words "Referring to"—omitted; *giving* in same line altered to *gave*.

After 5,000, p. 206, the following omission: "I enclose an extract from a letter which has accidentally fallen into my hands, which will afford Your Excellency some details as to the enemy's force and loss, particularly in officers. Brig.-Gen. Ripley, &c., &c., are among the wounded." On the same line "two hundred and fifty prisoners" is altered to "200 prisoners"—this may have been a clerical or typographical error.

After the concluding word *present*, the following paragraphs are omitted:

"Being now unencumbered with heavy guns, for which I had no efficient supply of ammunition, this division is again moveable and ready, and most anxious to be afforded an opportunity of showing that it is only behind works or in thick woods that he can expect to gain any advantage over British troops. The 97th Regiment has joined. I propose sending that of De Watteville to the rear. Until supplied with ammunition (and guns) by means of the squadron, for to no other means of transport can we look for the next three months, Your Excellency will see the utter impossibility of any further operations against Fort Erie being undertaken by this division. It is not my intention, however, to throw open this part of the country by withdrawing the troops behind the Chippawa, as long as it may be possible to keep them in the field. The privations and hardship: however, to which they are exposed in their present situation must ere long occasion disease, which is in fact already making its appearance in many of the corps. Every

exertion is making to prepare winter accommodation for the troops.”  
 “As no further offensive operations can be undertaken for the present, I propose leaving the command in the hands of Major-General Stovin, who will be assisted by Major-General DeWatteville, and returning shortly toward the lower part of the Province.”

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**Extract of Intercepted Letter Enclosed in Lieut.-General Drummond's Despatch to Sir George Prevost of 19th Sept., 1814.**

The enemies' batteries having annoyed us much, and a new one of four guns being complete, which would rake our camp, General Brown determined to attempt them by assault. General P. B. Porter, with the New York Militia in two columns, headed by the riflemen under Colonel Gibson and Major Brooke of the 23rd Infantry, were ordered to assault the right of their position. When the firing commenced Generals Ripley and Miller, at the head of the residue of their brigades, were to storm in front. Our plan was completely successful. We took all their batteries, spiked their guns, knocked off their trunnions, blew up the magazines, made 350 prisoners, killed and wounded an immense number, and finally returned to our intrenchments in good order. Our loss in men was small, that of officers immensely disproportionate, which I attribute to the total difference of their uniform, enabling the enemy to distinguish them. I am unable to give all the names, but recollect the following: Killed—Captain Armistead, 1st Rifles; Captain Bradford, 21st Infantry. Wounded—Col. Gibson, 4th Rifles, mortally; Major Trimble, 19th; Captain Ramsay, 1st Rifles; General Ripley, Lt.-Col. Aspinwall, Lieut. Childs, and many other officers of the regulars and militia whose names I have not learnt. Lt.-Col. Wood and Adjutant Bullard, missing.

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**Captain J. L. Hill, 41st Regt., to Lieut.-General Drummond.**

WOODHOUSE, 22nd Sept., 1814.

(Extract.)

This morning eight officers and 136 soldiers and women arrived from Kentucky, being the first division of prisoners taken on Lake Erie and at Moravian Town. The men are almost naked, most of them without shoes, and many of them suffering from fever and ague.

Royal Navy—One lieutenant, one sailing master, one midshipman, eighteen seamen.

41st Regt.—One captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, 98 non-commissioned officers and privates.

Royal Newfoundland Regiment — Four non-commissioned officers and privates, sixteen women and children.

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**Brevet-Major Muir to Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Evans.**

(Extract.)

On the 27th September I went to Long Point, where I arrived on the 30th. I found nearly a quarter of those who had crossed over, in all the different stages of sickness, even to death itself. On the 25th October three vessels anchored in the bay and a boat came ashore, and I was informed that the prisoners were on board, but that many of them were sick. Soon after, the boats arrived at the beach with some dead, others dying, and one-half of them unable to help themselves in any manner whatever.

In short, we lost six men and one woman that night, and it was the doctor's opinion that not one in twenty who were called well would ever recover their strength and appearance. I was informed by the non-commissioned officers that there was not a town they were marched through but they were surrounded by a parcel of people offering them money and making use of every means to seduce them from their allegiance.

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**Assistant-Surgeon Kennedy to Lieutenant-Colonel Evans.**

(Extract.)

LONG POINT, 7th October, 1814.

The further we advanced the scene of misery deepened, and from wretchedness we arrived gradually to the essence of everything miserable, nakedness, uncleanness, disease and death. I should not have objected to have taken a single countenance under my care, but the poor fellows were anxious to get on, and, although bare-footed and naked, I allowed them to go where they could get some comfortables.

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**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,

4th October, 1814.

(No. 197.)

(Extract.)

I intend proceeding to Kingston to-morrow to discuss with Sir James Yeo and Sir Gordon Drummond, a plan for the construction of vessels during the winter on Lake Erie at Long Point and Lake Huron at Matchedash, and attacking Sackett's Harbor next campaign.

**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,

11th October, 1814.

(No. 199.)

(Extract.)

The enemy discontinued the blockade of Kingston the day before I arrived. The vigilance of the American cruisers on Lake Ontario was felt even by our batteaux creeping along the shore with provisions for the Right Division. In consequence I found the wants of that portion of the army had grown to an alarming extent. The *St. Lawrence* is not quite ready to take the lake, but it is expected she will be on the 15th or 16th, when the squadron will proceed directly to the Niagara with a small proportion of supplies for the troops. Reinforcements Sir James Yeo declines taking, for fear of being brought to action by Commodore Chauncey, but as soon as he learns that the American fleet is in Sackett's Harbor and laid up for the winter, he will then be disposed to convey supplies and remove the sick and disabled. I have ordered the 90th Regt., about 950 rank and file, to proceed by land immediately to York, whence I hope it may be conveyed to Niagara by water by the ships of war. The naval ascendency has been obtained too late to attempt the destruction of Sackett's Harbor. The quantity of provisions in store at this post is not sufficient for the supply of the two divisions during the winter.

It is decided preparations shall be made immediately for the establishment of a military post and dockyard near Matchedash Bay, to gain the ascendency on Lake Huron. The only route practicable is from York to Lake Simcoe and the Matchedash River.

**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, KINGSTON,

UPPER CANADA, 18th Oct., 1814.

(No. 200.)

MY LORD,—The American Government having availed itself of the naval ascendency it possessed on Lake Ontario and on Lake Erie to bring from Sackett's Harbor and Detroit, on board its vessels, considerable reinforcements and extensive supplies to General Brown's army occupying Buffalo and Fort Erie, Lieutenant-General Drummond's situation, with scanty resources for the support of a force reduced by sickness and contests, was becoming daily more critical.

The state of the roads from hence to York being represented as impracticable for the movement of any considerable number of men or any adequate quantity of provisions, I had nothing to hope

for the Lieut.-General's relief but from the exertions of Sir James Yeo.

On the 12th inst. a reconnoissance pushed into the neighbourhood of Sackett's Harbor, and returned with intelligence that Commodore Chauncey's ships were anchored under the batteries, indicating a disposition on his part to await there the result of the supericrity we had just obtained, and in the event of an attack to co-operate in the defence of the place.

In consequence, Sir James Yeo, with difficulty, consented to receive on board his vessels \* a wing of the 90th Regt., in addition to a small proportion of ordnance, ordnance stores, and provisions, and sailed from hence for Niagara on the 16th inst., leaving me with the assurance that he would return as soon as possible with as many of the sick and disabled of the Right Division as were in a situation to be removed, and convey another and much more ample supply of provisions, stores and men, previous to the closing of the navigation.

The stores required for the equipment of the *St. Lawrence* have absorbed nearly the whole of the summer transport. Military operations are unavoidably combined with naval co-operation, and unconditionally dependent upon it. This conviction has excited a struggle for ascendancy on the water that has drawn forth on both sides an array of vessels that could never have been anticipated in these inland waters, and the naval commanders have, I am afraid, in consequence been led to consider themselves as directing squadrons which by a trial of strength were to decide the fate of the war, forgetting their necessary identity with the land force for the general prosperity of the common cause. Thus, instead of that zealous, prompt, and cheerful co-operation so essential to the movement and very existence of His Majesty's troops on this widely extended frontier, every demand, either for the transport of men or stores, is considered as hampering the powers of the fleet and endangering its safety.

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	Guns.	
* <i>St. Lawrence</i> , . . . . .	110.	
<i>Prince Regent</i> , . . . . .	58.	
<i>Princess Charlotte</i> , . . . . .	42.	
<i>Montreal</i> , . . . . .	23.	
<i>Niagara</i> , . . . . .	21.	
<i>Charwell</i> , . . . . .	14.	} at York or Niagara.
<i>Star</i> , . . . . .	14.	
<i>Magnet</i> , . . . . .	12.	
<i>Nelley</i> , (burnt to avoid capture,) 10.		

**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

KINGSTON, 23rd October, 1814.

(No. 201.)

(Extract.)

I have called upon Sir James Yeo to transport one company of Royal Artillery and a brigade of 9-pounders, the 9th Regiment, 850 rank and file, and the 37th Regiment, 600 rank and file, to enable Lieutenant-General Drummond to compel General Brown to retire from Fort Erie before winter sets in.

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*(From Boston Columbian Centinel.)***Extract from a Letter Dated at Buffalo, 25th October, 1814.**

The militia and volunteers have crossed to this side. General Brown's division was crossing on Saturday and Sunday. Thus endeth the campaign of General Izard, (Amperzand the soldiers call him, in allusion to his round about march from Plattsburg to Fort Erie.) He left Plattsburg on the 24th of August and arrived at Fort Erie on October 12th.

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**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

KINGSTON, 1st November, 1814.

(No. 203.)

(Extract.)

Sir James Yeo sailed this morning for Niagara with a favorable wind, having a company of Royal Artillery, the 37th Regiment, and detachments of the 6th and 82d on board, being about 1,200 men, with supplies of provisions.

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**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

MONTREAL, 5th November, 1814.

(No. 204.)

(Extract.)

Having ascertained that General Brown had arrived at Sackett's Harbor and that 2,000 men from Fort Erie were on the march for that place, I was satisfied that the object of the temporary removal of headquarters to Kingston was obtained, and returned to Montreal.

## Distribution of the Eight Division.

8th November, 1814.

	<i>Rank and File.</i>	
	<i>Effectives.</i>	<i>Sick.</i>
<i>Fort Niagara</i> —		
Royal Marine Artillery.....	53	1
41st .....	483	34
Detachments.....	10	
	—	— 581
<i>Fort George</i> :		
Royal Artillery.....	51	
De Watteville's Regiment.....	475	72
	—	— 598
<i>Fort Missassauga</i> :		
Royal Artillery.....	78	
90th Regiment .....	202	11
	—	— 291
<i>Queenston</i> :		
19th Light Dragoons.....	50	32
Royal Artillery.....	14	
89th, 2nd Batt.....	206	37
100th.....	229	38
	—	— 656
<i>Niagara Falls</i> :		
Royal Artillery.....	95	
1st Royals.....	408	30
82d Regt.....	477	85
90th do.....	565	20
97th do.....	414	18
	—	— 2112
<i>Chippawa and Advance</i> :		
19th Light Dragoons.....	39	2
Royal Artillery.....	109	7
6th, 1st Battn.....	699	65
37th Regt.....	586	25
Glengarry Light Infantry.....	222	10
Niagara Guides .....	20	
	—	— 1784
<i>Burlington</i> :		
Royal Artillery.....	32	
103d Regt.....	311	326
Detachments.....	1	4
	—	— 674

*York:*

Royal Artillery .....	36	5
8th, 1st Battn .....	44	71
41st Regt .....	2	59
89th, 2nd Battn .....	144	118
100th Regt .....	14	43
103rd do .....		44
Glengarry Light Infantry .....	26	19
Detachments .....	102	101
	—	—856

**Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Evans, 41st Regiment, to Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey.**

(Extract.)

KINGSTON, 10th November, 1814.

All the officers and almost all the men were ill when they arrived, and I fear a great number will never recover. I also understand that every enticement was held out to them when in confinement to enter into the American service, and that their recruiting parties even went into the depots of Newport and Chillicothe, when they induced a few men to enlist.

**Captain J. L. Hill to Lieutenant-Colonel Wm. Evans.**

(Extract.)

10th November, 1814.

The officers were removed from Frankfort on the 16th July, arrived at Newport on the 18th, were detained there until the 24th, on 2nd August arrived at Franklinton where they were detained until 9th September. On 16th they arrived at Lower Sandusky. They bivouacked on the march, and were constantly exposed to heavy rains without any covering or change of clothing, but there were only two of them sick when they arrived there.

The situation of Sandusky was extremely unhealthy, the river being almost stagnant and the banks swampy. They were detained there for more than a month, without blankets, greatcoats or any other covering save a few old tents furnished by the Americans, not sufficient for more than one-third of the prisoners. There was only one medical officer with them, who had very little medicine.

Had the prisoners been embarked on their arrival at Lower Sandusky, instead of being detained there so long, the regiment would have acquired an effective strength of some hundreds in place of the wretched remains which have lately joined, many of whom have died, and all who survive will be incapable of any duty for many months.

**Lient. Clemens to Lient.-Col. Evans.**

(Extract.)

When the prisoners arrived at Cleveland their situation was shocking, many being sick, without any medical attendance, and they were encamped without tents or any covering in the most bleak and cold situation that could be picked out. The men complained that they were half-starved, and did not receive their rations regularly, and that what they got was not fit to be eaten, as it smelt and was unwholesome. This I reported, but could get no satisfaction.

**Dr. John Erly to Lient.-Colonel Harvey.**

FORT GEORGE, 9th November, 1814.

I have visited Ancaster, where the soldiers of the 41st, lately prisoners, are now in hospital. All these unfortunate men are, with a few exceptions, in a most deplorable, sickly state.

The most prevalent diseases are intermittent fever of a most obstinate nature, remittent fevers of a bad character and dysentery. The few men, and they are very few indeed, who have had the good fortune to escape these destructive diseases, have a sickly, sallow complexion, and they are considerably emaciated and debilitated. Sandusky is merely a low, swampy and wet morass through which a river runs, and the ground is nearly on a level with the river. This swampy and naked lagoon, without either tree or shrub, is bounded on one side by a rising ground of nearly two hundred feet high, and the distance between its base and the river is nearly a quarter of a mile. It was between this height and the river that the men were encamped. They could not find a dry spot to build their huts on. The rations were frequently reduced to half allowance.

**Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL,

16th November, 1814.

(No. 213.)

MY LORD,—I have much satisfaction in communicating to Your Lordship the result of the exertions made for reinforcing the Right Division.

Lieutenant-General Drummond has reported to me that the enemy evacuated Fort Erie on the 5th inst., after blowing up the works and destroying the place.

Our fleet arrived off Niagara on the 2d. The troops and supplies were disembarked as expeditiously as possible, but before the first could be brought in contact with the enemy the American Army retired to its own shore, and is now, I am informed, seeking winter quarters at Buffalo, Batavia, and the Nine Mile Creek.

A concerted expedition from Detroit, consisting of 1,000 Kentuckians, mostly mounted, under General McArthur, had passed the Moravian Village on the 2d inst., directing their course on Burlington. On the first intimation of this circumstance our Indian allies displayed an ardent desire to be allowed to move against them. Their good disposition was promptly seized, and they have advanced to meet the enemy, supported by the 103d Regiment and some militia. Lieutenant-General Drummond has ordered Major-General DeWatteville, with two field pieces, a detachment of the 19th Light Dragoons and the 37th Regiment, to hasten forward in the same direction.

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### **Sir George Prevost to Lord Bathurst.**

MONTREAL, 21st November, 1814.

(No. 215.)

(Extract.)

A body of 1,500 mounted Kentuckians, armed with rifles, tomahawks and scalping knives, reached the banks of the Grand River on the 6th inst., but finding the passage of it disputed by the Indians, supported by a party of the 103rd Regiment, they did not persist in their attempt to cross it, and reclining to their right commenced their retreat on the river Thames by the way of Talbot's road, in the vicinity of Long Point. Their purpose seems to have been the destruction of the mills in that part of the country, and it was then their intention to have forced their way to Fort Erie and to have joined the army of General Izard, but the removal of that army prevented this. Both in their advance and in their retreat their progress has been marked by plunder and devastation, and such was their disregard for private property in this predatory excursion, that if their advance had not been checked the ruin of the whole country that lay in their line of march would have been completed, and all its resources available to our subsistence entirely destroyed.

**Memorial of John Norton to Hon. Henry Goulburn.**

LONDON, January 29th, 1816.

(Extract.)

At the battle of Chippawa we were victorious, when we fought the volunteer militia, eight hundred, and the aborigines of different tribes aiding the enemy fled before us. We killed many and took some prisoners. Among the former was a Lieutenant-Colonel commanding and a Seneca chief, among the latter a major and some other officers. Coming to the enemy's columns, we fired on them until we perceived our army to be retreating, overwhelmed by a very superior force. We followed.

At the battle of the Cataract we risked with our brother warriors, and afterwards following the enemy to Fort Erie, we then partook in every bloody encounter that took place in this vicinity.

**Major-General Brown's Diary from 5th July to 25th July, 1814.**

As General Ripley had not come up and General Porter's command had been routed, the left battalion of Scott's brigade, commanded by Jessup, was outflanked and greatly exposed. It was the crisis of the battle. Captain Austin being struck by a half-spent ball, which deprived him of his breath and supported on his horse for the moment by Captain Spencer and Major Jones, the Major-General rode up in person to Major Jessup and assured him of having speedy support. He then turned to the rear of Jessup's left flank and met Col. Gardner, who informed him that Ripley's command was nearly up and would be able in a few minutes to close with the enemy. The Major-General returned, but before any additional force came into action the enemy was defeated by Scott's command.

They were promptly pursued by our whole army, and would have been killed or captured to a man but for the retreat afforded them in their works behind the Chippawa.

The enemy's loss was much greater than estimated by General Brown in his official report, and the services of the gallant Porter and his command were undervalued at the time; great execution was done by their brave encounter with and advance upon the enemy through the wood. They certainly effected as much as could have been expected from undisciplined men.

July 6th.—It was late in the evening of the 5th before the wounded of both armies could be taken care of. The dead remained on the field during the night. Much of our time was engrossed on the 6th and 7th in carrying the wounded to the hospital at Buffalo,

and in burying the dead that were found in the woods and on the plains. General Brown was impatient at this delay. He was apprehensive that he could not arrive on the shore of Ontario and meet our fleet on the 10th, as, on examination of the enemy's works, the passage of the Chippawa bridge was considered too hazardous, if practicable, and the country on our left was represented as an impracticable forest. On the evening of the 6th General Brown secured the interest of an inhabitant, who informed him of an old timber road that led in a circuitous way from the rear of Mr. Street's house to the conjunction of Lyon's Creek with the Chippawa.

On the morning of the 7th, Generals Brown and Porter with the senior engineer, the *guide* and a small guard, explored this road. It was determined that it could be rendered passable for artillery in a short time. Accordingly a heavy detail was immediately made for this duty, and at night it was reported "passable for artillery."

As General Scott's command had manifested from the moment of crossing the strait the greatest degree of emulation in the promptitude with which they executed their orders as well as in the gallantry with which they improved each opportunity of distinction, as General Ripley was tardy in the investment of Fort Erie and his brigade had not participated in the laurels of the 5th, the commanding general was induced to give him this opportunity to establish the reputation of his command, and was particularly anxious to diffuse throughout the ranks that stimulus which is ever produced by the spirit of emulation. Accordingly General Ripley with his brigade, reinforced by Porter's command and two companies of artillery under Major Kindman, was ordered to take the road we had opened, force a passage which had formerly existed near the mouth of Lyon's Creek, and cross the Chippawa. We found that the enemy had erected no work for the defence of this passage, and we believed that it might be approached undiscovered, as the road lay through a thick wood and the enemy had confined himself to the lower side of the Chippawa since the battle of the fifth.

The materials for a bridge were procured by taking up barn floors, and selecting the light boats, which were forwarded in wagons with the troops, and it was not supposed that General Ripley would be delayed but a short time in crossing, after which he was to place himself upon the enemy's right flank towards his rear, when we should be governed by circumstances. General Ripley advanced, but did not pursue that prompt and decisive course which the service he was on particularly required. The day was far spent, and he continued to doubt and hesitate. The commanding general advanced to the front and assumed the immediate command. The

materials for the bridge were then advanced to the creek, and Hindman's artillery to command the opposite bank. The enemy appeared, but after a short cannonade was disconcerted and retired. It was soon reported that, apprehensive of our forcing a passage to his rear, he had abandoned his works. This proved to be true, and we found that he had destroyed the guns of his batteries by breaking off the trunnions and throwing them into the Chippawa. The construction of the bridge was abandoned. Ripley's command marched down a road running along the stream and Scott's advanced on the main road to the bridge, which had been destroyed by the enemy. With our boats we were enabled to cross during the night Scott's and Ripley's brigades and a part of our artillery.

July 9th.—The army marched in pursuit of the enemy, with the exception of General Porter's command, which was left to guard the baggage and rebuild the bridge across the Chippawa. As the enemy had a strong new work on Queenston Heights it was expected he would occupy this position. We were greatly surprised when at our approach he abandoned this work and fled, leaving his entrenching tools and a quantity of stores. We immediately occupied his post and advanced our column of infantry to the village of Queenston. The enemy retired to Forts George and Niagara and left the country open to us in every direction. We could march to the shore of the lake from our present position in a few hours whenever our fleet should arrive.

General Brown had been induced by the Government to rely implicitly on the co-operation of the fleet in the execution of the plan of campaign presented, and had experienced the greatest anxiety concerning his arrival at the lake shore by the time appointed to meet Commodore Chauncey—to wit, the 10th of July. In anxious expectation of the speedy arrival of the fleet, the army encamped, having every advantage in their position of strength, health, and convenience which the country would afford. General Porter, reinforced by a detachment of New York Volunteers, and having rebuilt the bridge over the Chippawa, brought up the baggage and joined the main army on the 10th.

After remaining for some days in painful suspense, we found that the original arrangement intended for our supplies could not be realized. We could draw nothing from the depots at Genesee River and Sodus without the fleet. We therefore were dependent for provisions upon a line of supplies from the rear. During this halt nothing of moment occurred except the loss of General John Swift of the New York Militia. This brave officer was killed by a soldier of a picket near Fort George, which the General with a few men had surprised and captured. Detachments occasionally marched

to the lake shore for forage or for observation without being molested.

The Indians left us about the 20th, and were crossed to Lewiston. On that day the works on Queenston Heights were blown up and the army took a position near Fort George. As this movement might induce the enemy to close upon our rear, it was hoped that he would come out of his works and give us an opportunity to engage him. On the 22d we re-occupied our former position on Queenston Heights, which the enemy had possessed with a few men who were soon routed and fled. General Porter with his usual zeal pursued them and captured a few prisoners; of the number were nine officers.

On the morning of the 23d the commanding general received by express a despatch from General Gaines, commanding at Sackett's Harbor, with advice that our fleet were in port and the Commodore sick. In consequence of the delay of the fleet, the Major-General had ordered from Sackett's Harbor all the riflemen at that post with a battering train of artillery. It was hoped that this reinforcement, by coasting the south shore of the lake, could reach in safety some of the harbors or creeks near the head of the lake and thence be transported to the army. In this the Major-General was also disappointed. Major Morgan, after being embarked, was detained at Stony Island under the conviction that he was in danger of being captured by the enemy's squadron. This information from General Gaines precluded all hope of co-operation from the fleet and of the timely arrival of Major Morgan. It was therefore resolved to fall back to the Chippawa, and be governed by circumstances. It was the intention of the commanding general, (in which all his principal officers coincided,) to march upon Burlington, having first received a small supply of provisions from Schlosser and removed from the army all unnecessary baggage.

With this object in view, the army fell back to the Chippawa on the 24th. General Scott, ever anxious to distinguish himself and his command, was solicitous to be allowed to march for Burlington Heights with the first brigade, and expressed his wish to this effect on the evening of the 24th. On the morning of the 25th he made the request in form, and was so tenacious on the subject that he appeared quite vexed that the commanding general would not divide his force. Scott honestly believed that with the troops he asked he would cover himself with additional glory and add to the fame of the army.

General Brown received about noon by express from Colonel Swift, who was posted at Lewiston, advice that the enemy appeared in considerable force at Queenston and on its heights, that four of

his fleet had arrived during the preceding night and were then lying near Fort Niagara, and that a number of boats were in view moving up the straits. Within a few minutes after this intelligence the Major-General was further informed by Captain Denman (of the Quartermaster's department) that the enemy was landing at Lewiston, and that our baggage and stores at Schlosser and on their way thither were in immediate danger of capture. It was conceived that the most effectual method of recalling him from this object was to put the army in motion towards Queenston. If he were in the field on the Canada side of the strait our only business was to meet and fight him without loss of time, as General Brown had almost ceased to hope for co-operation or reinforcement from any quarter. While the support on which the General hitherto relied had failed to appear, the enemy, having the command of the lake, could reinforce at pleasure.

General Scott with the First Brigade, Towson's Artillery, and all the dragoons and mounted men, were accordingly put in motion on the road towards Queenston. He was particularly instructed to report the appearance of the enemy, and to call for assistance if that were necessary. Having the command of the dragoons, he would have, it was considered, the means of collecting and communicating intelligence.

On General Scott's arrival near the Falls he learned that the enemy's forces were directly in his front, a narrow piece of wood alone intercepting his view of them. Waiting only to despatch this information, but not to receive any communication in return, the General advanced upon them. Hearing the report of the cannon and small arms, General Brown at once concluded that a battle had commenced between the advance of our army and that of the enemy, and, without waiting for information from General Scott, ordered the Second Brigade and all the artillery to march as rapidly as possible to his support, and directed Colonel Gardner to remain and see this order executed. He then rode with his aids-de-camp and Major McRee with all speed to the scene of action. As he approached the Falls, about a mile from the Chippawa, he met Major Jones, who had accompanied General Scott, bearing the message from him advising General Brown that he had met the enemy. From the additional information of Major Jones it was concluded to order up General Porter's command, and Major Jones was sent to General Porter with this order. Advancing further General Brown met Major Wood of the Corps of Engineers, who had also accompanied General Scott. He reported that the conflict between Scott and the enemy was close and desperate, and urged to hurry on reinforcements, which were now marching with all possible rapidity.

The Major-General was accompanied by Major Wood to the field of battle. On his arrival he found that General Scott has passed the wood and engaged the enemy on the Queenston road and the ground to the left of it with the 9th, 11th, and 22d Regiments and Towson's Artillery, the 25th having been detached to the right to be governed by circumstances.

Apprehending that these troops were much exhausted, notwithstanding the good countenance they showed, and seeing that they had suffered severely in the contest, General Brown determined to interpose a new line with the advancing troops, and thus disengage General Scott and hold his brigade in reserve. At this time Captains Ritchie and Biddle's companies of artillery had come into action, and the head of General Ripley's column was nearly up with the right of General Scott's line. In consequence, it was believed, of the arrival of these fresh troops which the enemy could see and began to feel, he fell back at this moment, and General Scott's line gave a general huzza that cheered the whole army. General Ripley was ordered to pass Scott's line and display his column in front; the movement was commenced in obedience to the order. Majors McRee and Wood had been rapidly reconnoitering the enemy and his position. McRee reported that the enemy had taken a new position with his line and occupied a height with his artillery which gave him a great advantage, it being the key of the whole position; to secure a victory it was necessary to carry the artillery and seize this height. McRee was directed by the commanding general to conduct the second brigade on the Queenston Road with a view to this object, and to prepare the 21st Regiment, under Colonel Miller, for the duty. Ripley's brigade immediately advanced on the Queenston Road. General Brown with his aids-de-camp and Major Wood, passing to the left of the Second, in front of the First Brigade, approached the enemy's position and saw an extended line of infantry formed for the support of his artillery. The 1st Regiment of Infantry, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Nicholas, which had arrived that day and was attached to neither of the brigades but had marched to the field of battle in rear of the Second, was ordered promptly to break off to the left and form a line facing the enemy's at the height, with the view of drawing his fire and attracting his attention while Colonel Miller advanced with the bayonet upon his left flank to carry his artillery. As the 1st Regiment, conducted by Major Wood, under the command of Nicholas, approached its position, the commanding general rode to Colonel Miller and ordered him to charge and carry the enemy's artillery with the bayonet; he replied in a tone of great promptness and good humor, "It shall be done, sir." At this moment the 1st Regiment gave

way under the fire of the enemy, but Miller, without regard to this occurrence, advanced steadily to his object, and carried the cannon and heights in a style rarely equalled—never excelled. At the point of time when Colonel Miller charged, the 23d Regiment was on his right, a little in the rear; General Ripley led this regiment; it had some severe fighting and in a degree gave way, but was promptly re-formed and brought upon the right of the 21st, with which were connected detachments of the 17th and 19th.

General Ripley being now with his brigade formed in line, the enemy driven from his commanding ground, had the captured cannon, nine pieces, in his rear. The 1st Regiment having rallied was brought into line by Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas on the left of the 2d Brigade, and General Porter, having arrived at this time, occupied the extreme left with his command. Our artillery formed between the 23d and 21st Regiments on the right. Having given the order to Colonel Miller to storm the heights as he advanced, General Brown moved to his right flank by the rear, with Major Wood and Captain Spencer, as far as the Queenston Road; turning down that road he passed directly by the rear of the 23d Regiment, then advancing to the support of Miller; the shouts of our soldiers on the height at this moment assured him of Miller's success and he hastened on, designing to turn from the Queenston Road up Lundy's Lane. In the act of doing so, Wood and Spencer, who were about a horse's length before him, were very near riding upon a body of the enemy—it being nearly dark, and nothing prevented them doing so but the exclamation of an officer before them: "They are the Yankees." This halted our officers, and upon looking down the road we saw a line of British infantry drawn up facing the western fence of the road, with its right resting on Lundy's Lane. The British officer who gave this alarm had at that moment discovered Major Jessup's battalion. The Major, as has already been stated, had at the commencement of the action been ordered by General Scott to take ground to his right. He had succeeded in turning the enemy's left flank, had captured General Riall and several other officers and sent them to camp; and, searching his way silently towards where the battle was raging, he had brought his regiment, the 25th, after but little comparative loss, up to the eastern fence of the Queenston Road, a little to the north of Lundy's Lane. The moment Major Jessup was apprised that the British officer had discovered him he ordered his command to fire upon the enemy's line; the lines could not have been more than four rods apart. The slaughter was excessive; the enemy's line fled down the Queenston Road at the third or fourth fire. As the firing ceased and General Brown approached Major Jessup, the

latter inquired where he should form his regiment, and he was directed to move up Lundy's Lane and form on the right of the Second Brigade.

The enemy rallying his broken corps, and having received reinforcements, was now discovered in good order and great force. The commanding general, doubting the correctness of the information, to ascertain the truth passed with his suite in front of our line. He could no longer doubt that a more extended line than he had before seen during the engagement was near and appeared advancing upon us. Captain Spencer without a word put spurs to his horse and rode directly up to the advancing line, then turning towards the enemy's right, inquired in a strong, firm voice, "What regiment is that?" and was as promptly answered, "The Royal Scots, sir." General Brown and suite without loss of time threw themselves behind our own troops and awaited the attack. The enemy advanced slowly and firmly upon our line. Perfect silence was observed throughout both armies until the enemy's line approached to within from four to six rods. Our troops had levelled their pieces and the artillery was prepared; the order to fire was given, and truly awful was its effect. The lines closed in part before that of the enemy was broken; he then retired precipitately, the American fire following him. The field was covered with the slain, but not an enemy upon his feet was to be seen. We dressed our lines upon the ground we occupied. General Brown was not disposed to leave it in the dark, believing it to be the best in the vicinity. His intention then was to maintain it until the day should dawn, and be governed by circumstances.

Our gallant and accomplished foe did not leave us much time for deliberation; he showed himself within twenty minutes, apparently in good order and undismayed. General Ripley now urged the Major-General to order up General Scott, who had during this time been held in reserve with his three battalions. The Major-General rode in person to General Scott and directed him to advance; that officer was prepared and expecting the call. As General Scott advanced towards the right of the Second Brigade, General Brown passed to the left to speak with Gen. Porter and see the countenance and condition of the militia, who at that moment had been thrown into some confusion under a very galling and deadly fire from the enemy. They were, however, kept to their duty by the exertions of their chief, and most nobly sustained the conflict. The enemy was again repulsed by the whole line and driven out of sight.

But a short time had elapsed when he was once more seen, advancing in great force upon our main line of troops under Generals Ripley and Porter. General Scott, now on our left, had

given to his column a direction which would have enabled him in a few minutes to have formed line in rear of the enemy's right and thus have brought the enemy between two fires, but in a moment, most unexpectedly, a flank fire from a party of the enemy concealed on our left falling upon the centre of Scott's command while in open column, blasted our proud expectations; his column was severed in two, one part passing to the rear, the other by the right flank of platoons towards our main line. About this period General Brown received his first wound, a musket ball passing through his right thigh. A few minutes after, Captain Spencer, aid-de-camp to the Major-General, received his mortal wound. The enemy had nearly closed with our main line. Moving up to the left of this line General Brown received a violent blow from a ball of some kind on his left side. It did not enter, but such was its force that it nearly unhorsed him. In the General's own words, he began to doubt his ability to sit on his horse. Meeting his confidential friend Major Wood, he thought proper to state to him his wounds and condition. Wood exclaimed with great emotion, "Never mind, my dear General, you are gaining the greatest victory that has ever been gained for your country." His heroic soul, (says the General,) was exclusively occupied with the battle, which was then, if possible, raging with redoubled fury. This was the last desperate effort made by the enemy to regain his position and artillery. A broader display of heroism was never obtained from the ranks. The hostile lines met in several places, and we captured many prisoners, who surrendered at the point of the bayonet. Porter's volunteers, who were not exceeded by the regulars in meeting the charge, were seen precipitated by the incitement of their gallant commander upon the enemy's line, which they broke, and hand to hand compelled many to surrender.

The enemy now seemed to be effectually routed; his forces disappeared. In a conversation which occurred a few minutes after between the Major-General, Majors Wood and McRee, and two or three other officers, it was the unanimous belief of all that we had nothing more to apprehend from the foe with whom we had been contending, but it appeared to be admitted by the whole that it would be proper to return to camp. The idea did not occur to any one present that it would be necessary to leave behind a man or a cannon. It was observed by Major McRee expressly that there would be no difficulty in moving the cannon by hand. Waggoners had been by previous order of the Major-General provided for the wounded. General Brown, suffering severely from his wound now left the field with Captain Austin, his surviving aid, observing to the other officers that they would remain and aid

General Ripley by all the means in their power. As the General moved towards camp, many scattering men were seen by him on the road; not a man was running away, none appeared to be alarmed, but having lost their officers, were seeking water, and were either drinking or straggling for drink. This scene assured the Major-General that it was proper for the army to return to camp in order that the scattering men might be arranged to their companies and battalions, the army re-organized and refreshed before moving.

Being supported on his horse, the commanding general moved slowly to his tent. Within a few minutes it was reported to him that General Ripley had returned to camp, having left the captured cannon on the field. General Ripley being immediately sent for, General Brown stated to him that there was no doubt in his mind but that the enemy had retired and that our victory was complete. He appeared to be of the same opinion, as was every officer present. General Brown then, in strong and emphatic language, ordered General Ripley to re-organize his battalions, to see that they were refreshed with whatever could be afforded in the camp, and put himself, with all the men he could muster of every corps, on the field of battle as the day dawned, there to be governed by circumstances; at all events to bring off the captured cannon. It was not believed that the enemy would dare to attack him if he showed a good countenance. General Ripley left General Brown under the conviction that he would execute the order given to him; he did not make the slightest objection to it; none was suggested from any quarter.

As day approached, finding that no column had moved, General Brown ordered his staff to go to every commanding officer of corps and order them to be promptly prepared to march in obedience to the order given to General Ripley, but it was sunrise before the army crossed the Chippewa. General Ripley led on his troops as far as Bridgewater Mills. Halting his column there, he returned to the commanding general and stated his objections to proceeding further. General Brown persisted, when he informed the General that General Porter was also opposed to proceeding. At these words General Brown replied, "Sir, you will do as you please," and had no further intercourse with him until they met at Buffalo.

General Brown had entertained no doubt of the intelligence or personal bravery of General Ripley, nor has he ever expressed himself to that effect. In consequence, however, of the events of the night of the 25th, and more especially on the morning of the 26th, his confidence in him as a commander was impaired. The General believed that he dreaded responsibility more than danger; in a word, that he had a greater share of physical than moral courage.

General Scott and the Major-General being both severely wounded, a courier was despatched without loss of time to General Gaines, ordering him on to take the command of the gallant remains of the Army of Niagara.

(From *Historical Sketch of the Second War between the United States and Great Britain*, by Charles J. Ingersoll. Events of 1814, pp. 100-105. Philadelphia, 1849.)

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### Narrative of General T. S. Jessup.

On the morning of the 4th of July General Riall's light troops were discovered in our neighborhood. General Scott was detached towards Chippawa—the enemy slowly retired before us. The march was a continued skirmish, and on the plain between Street's Creek and Chippawa our light troops were warmly and vigorously attacked, but maintained their ground most gallantly. On that occasion Captain Crooker of the 9th with a detachment of light infantry received and repulsed a charge of a detachment of the 19th Dragoons. General Scott, finding the enemy strongly posted behind the Chippawa, called in the light troops and took a position in rear of Street's Creek, where he encamped his brigade. General Brown came up about midnight with the Second Brigade and the artillery. At dawn on the morning of the 5th of July the enemy began to annoy our pickets and kept up a desultory fire for several hours so near our line that a soldier of the 25th was wounded not more than thirty paces in front. Some time in the forenoon General Peter B. Porter arrived with three or four hundred Indian warriors and about three hundred Pennsylvania volunteers. After allowing his command time to refresh, General Brown ordered him to file from the rear of our camp, pass through the woods, and, if possible, place himself between the enemy's advance and his main body. To facilitate this object our advanced pickets were directed to provoke a fire from the enemy's pickets, and then fall back to some log cabins in front of Street's house to induce them to follow, and to draw, if possible, their light troops in that direction.

A heavy firing soon commenced and continued for more than half-an-hour, when the enemy's light troops were observed to be retiring, and from a cloud of dust seen rising on the road leading to Chippawa bridge it was evident General Riall was in motion with his principal force, and that he attempted with his light troops a similar ruse upon us which General Brown had attempted upon him. At the time the firing had become so heavy Major Jessup ordered the 25th to be in readiness to move at a moment's notice, and

mounting his horse he crossed the creek and joined General Brown. When the movement of Riall was perceived, he returned immediately to his place and found the regiment forming under arms by order of General Scott for exercise. A few movements after, the order was given by General Brown to march and meet the enemy.

Captain Towson had been ordered to take a position with his artillery near the bridge over Street's Creek, and, as Scott's brigade was compelled to cross that bridge under the fire of the enemy's artillery, he rendered important service by covering the movement and annoying the enemy's line.

General Riall had formed his line of battle with the left resting on the Niagara, where he had a formidable battery of twenty-four pounders and howitzers; his right, consisting of his grenadiers and light infantry, supported by a body of militia and Indians in the wood, was strongly posted behind a fence and a breastwork of large oak logs. Porter's command, though it had for some time gallantly sustained an unequal conflict, had fled on meeting Riall's column, and by the time Scott's brigade had engaged the enemy not a militia man or Indian was to be seen on the field. When the several corps had passed the bridge, Major Jessup was ordered to go to the extreme left and be governed by circumstances. Major Leavenworth with the 9th and 22nd moved forward on the Chippawa road and engaged the enemy's left. Colonel Campbell led the 11th to the left of the 9th, and was about to take his position in the line, when he received a severe wound in the knee and was obliged to leave the field. Major McNeil, who succeeded to the command of the regiment, immediately formed it and led it into action. Major Jessup, perceiving that the enemy greatly outnumbered us in the field, moved his regiment in column until he attained a position within a hundred and twenty paces of the Marquis of Tweeddale, in order to deceive him in regard to the force of his regiment. There he forced under a most destructive fire from the grenadiers and light infantry in front, and the Indians and militia covered by a thick wood on his left flank. He soon found his position untenable, and that he must either retreat or advance. The Second Brigade not being on the field, to have fallen back would have uncovered Scott's left flank and enabled the Marquis by throwing forward his grenadiers and light infantry to attack him on that flank, which, pressed as he then was by a superior force in front, would have caused his instant defeat. Relying on the firmness and excellent discipline of his troops, the Major determined to advance and try the effect of the bayonet, believing that, even should he be sacrificed, time enough would be gained to enable the Second Brigade to come to the relief of the first. He ordered his men to cease

firing, and, lest they should recommence the fire, he directed them to support their arms. Deadly as was the fire under which they were suffering, the moment they heard the words of command every musket was at a shoulder and a support. The charge was made. The enemy, however, did not wait to receive the bayonet, but, strong as his position was, he fled in confusion. Captain Ketchum, with one of the light companies of the 25th, was detached to harass him and prevent him from rallying; the remainder of the regiment was formed across the flank of the line engaged with Scott, and by an oblique fire assailed it at the same time in front and rear; part of the line gave way, but rallied immediately behind a fence. Whilst Major Jessup was making his dispositions to drive it from this position, General Brown came up and assured him of immediate support. About this time Major McNeil, relieved by the position and operations of the 25th from a part of the force with which he had been engaged, with the ready presence of mind and decision which on all occasions distinguished him, promptly threw forward the left of the 11th and attacked in flank that part of the enemy's line which still maintained its ground, when the whole gave way and fled rapidly behind the Chippawa.

After the battle Majors Wood and Jessup and Captain Ketchum examined it at dawn on the morning of the 7th, and were unanimously of opinion that the road could be made practicable with but little labor, and that a force might be put in motion on it which would be able to attack the enemy in flank and turn his position, and the road was repaired in the course of the day so as to admit of the passage of artillery over it.

On the morning of the 8th, General Ripley with his brigade, Porter's Volunteers and Indians, and two companies of artillery, was ordered to move rapidly on this road, cross the Chippawa, and attack the enemy's right flank, whilst Scott with his brigade and the remainder of the artillery should hold him in check in front. Plank and timber had been prepared to construct a bridge should it become necessary, which, with a number of small boats to be used as pontoons, were loaded on waggons and transported on the road to the Chippawa. General Ripley, finding the difficulties greater than had been anticipated, did not move as rapidly as was expected, and General Brown, impatient of the delay, proceeded to the front and took the direction of the operations. Arrangements were made to construct a bridge and an advantageous position was taken by the artillery to cover the passage of the river and command the opposite shore. General Riall, alarmed at this movement, in place of sending his light troops to defend the pass, destroyed his heavy artillery, tore up the bridge over the Chippawa, abandoned his

works and retired to Queenston. Scott's and Ripley's brigades crossed the Chippawa in boats during the night, and General Porter with his command was left on the western side in charge of the baggage, with orders to repair the bridge, pass the baggage over, and join the army as soon as possible.

General Brown with the troops that had crossed moved forward on the morning of the 9th, expecting, as the enemy had a strong work at Queenston, that General Riall would wait for him and fight there, but as we approached the work was abandoned so precipitately that the enemy left his entrenching tools and a large quantity of public stores in our possession. We occupied the heights, and General Riall, after detaching part of his force to Fort George, took a position in the open country with the remainder of his force, ten or fifteen miles from the fort.

General Porter, whose force had been augmented by a detachment of New York Volunteers, having repaired the Chippawa bridge, brought up the baggage of the army and joined on the 10th. The infantry was then pushed forward to the village of Queenston, and the artillery, with Porter's brigade, occupied the heights. The army remained in this position until the morning of the 20th; in the meantime several detachments were made to the lake and into the country, but nothing of any consequence occurred except that in a skirmish with a British picket, a post of the picket was captured by General Swift of the New York Volunteers, who was murdered by one of his prisoners.

On the 20th, the army moved to the vicinity of Fort George, and two companies of the 25th, under Captain White and Lieut. Seymour, engaged and drove in the enemy's advanced pickets. Major Jessup being officer of the day had advanced with those companies to reconnoitre the ground and observe the enemy, previous to posting the guards for the night. On the 22d the army returned to Queenston, which the enemy had occupied in our absence and from which he retired on our approach. The writer could never comprehend the object of the movement to Fort George. We had no battering train, and our force was not sufficient to warrant the attempt to carry the place by storm, particularly when General Riall with a force known to be nearly equal to ours was in the field and within striking distance of us.

We should have sought and beat him first, and then we might have taken the fort at our leisure. It is an axiom in military science that where the alternative is present of a fort to be attacked or an army in the field to be fought, the army should be fought first, because, even with a numerical superiority, the assailant might be so crippled in the attack on the fort as to fall an easy

prey to the army in the field. Had Riall been attacked his whole force must have been captured or destroyed, and our troops, flushed with victory, could have beaten Drummond on his arrival and afterwards taken the forts on both sides of the Niagara, but the favorable moment was allowed to pass, and we were consequently during the remainder of the campaign thrown upon the defensive. General Brown, contrary to his usual habit of relying on his own sound judgment, was, it is thought, overruled by the zeal and importunities of General Scott, who stood almost alone in favor of attacking Fort George, whilst Porter, Leavenworth, McRee, Wood, and Jessup, and before the matter was decided, Ripley, were for attacking Riall. Information having been received of the arrival of Lieut.-General Drummond with reinforcements, our army broke up its encampment at Queenston on the morning of the 24th and retired behind the Chippawa, except the 9th Regiment, which was left in and near the blockhouse on the north side of that river.

On the morning of the 25th it was ascertained that General Drummond was at Queenston with a large force, and General Brown was informed that he was detaching the greatest part of his force to the American side of the Niagara against our depot at Schlosser. Major Leavenworth was officer of the day. Major Jessup crossed the bridge about two o'clock p. m., and was informed by Leavenworth that a detachment of the enemy was near Mrs. Wilson's house, about two or three miles from Chippawa, but in what force he could not ascertain. A picket consisting of a troop of dragoons and at least two companies of infantry had been distinctly seen, and Majors Leavenworth and Jessup both expressed the opinion that General Drummond would not trust such a force in our immediate neighborhood beyond supporting distance from the army. Major Leavenworth had reported at headquarters what he had seen, but General Brown was so strongly impressed with the belief that the enemy's main object was Schlosser, that he could not believe that there was any other force than a few light troops in our front, which he supposed the British General had pushed forward to cover his real design, and believing that to manœuvre Fort George would be the better plan to counteract the movement on Schlosser, he ordered General Scott with his brigade, Towson's artillery, Harris's dragoons, and all the mounted volunteers, to move immediately to Queenston. The brigade moved about 5 o'clock p. m., and with the dragoons and volunteers perhaps exceeded twelve hundred men—the 25th was about three hundred and fifty rank and file. As we advanced the enemy's picket slowly retired, and it soon became evident that he was in considerable force. Information was received at Mrs. Wilson's that General Riall com-

manded, and that a wood not exceeding half a mile across alone separated him from us. The 9th Regiment, which had been detached to the left, was called in, and General Scott having despatched an officer to apprise General Brown of the position and probable force of the enemy, informed the officers commanding corps that he would immediately attack. He ordered Major Jessup to the right, with instructions to pass through the wood, and be governed by circumstances. The enemy began the battle by a fire on our advance, commanded by Captain Pentland. The 9th, 11th and 22nd Regiments passed the wood, and formed within four or five hundred paces of the enemy's line. Captain Towson posted his artillery on the right of the 9th, and a most obstinate and sanguinary conflict ensued, which continued perhaps an hour. On our side both officers and men evinced the most heroic courage, but the enemy was so superior in force and position, and his battery so destructive, that no impression could be made upon him. When Major Jessup moved to the right he discovered a narrow road through the wood, which the enemy had not observed or had neglected to occupy. Determining at once to avail himself of the advantage thus presented, he left Lieutenant Seymour with one light company to occupy in extended order the whole front which the regiment would have occupied in line, and advancing rapidly on the road was soon on the enemy's flank. That part of the line, being composed of militia and volunteers, fled in disorder without firing a gun, and the Major placed himself in Riall's rear. Here he encountered several detachments of the enemy, all of which he routed, and made numerous prisoners. Whilst making dispositions to attack the enemy's battery in rear, Major Jessup was informed by a prisoner that General Drummond was a short distance behind with a heavy reserve. Sensible that under the circumstances of the case it would be folly to attempt to carry his intention into effect, and that the safety of the army depended upon holding Drummond in check and keeping him out of action until General Brown should arrive with Ripley's and Porter's brigades, he seized the Niagara Road, took a position to attack advantageously any force that might advance, and detached Captain Ketchum with his company to make prisoners of all who should attempt to pass either to the front or rear. General Riall and ten or fifteen other officers, among them the aid of General Drummond, were captured, with from two to three hundred men. The General with seven or eight of the officers was sent to the rear of our line, but several of the officers and nearly all the private soldiers escaped. We had, however, deprived them of their arms. It had now become quite dark and the firing had partly ceased, when, about twenty minutes after

Riall had been sent off the field, General Scott's command gave three cheers, which drew a heavy fire from the enemy. Major Jessup moved with his command silently and slowly towards the rear, keeping a fence between his line of march and the Niagara Road. He had proceeded but a short distance, when he was informed that troops were advancing, and he soon met Captain Biddle of the artillery, from whom he received the pleasing intelligence that General Brown had arrived with his whole force, and was about to renew the action. Not knowing where to find General Brown or General Scott, or where to apply for orders, Major Jessup decided to resume his former position in the rear, and he had nearly attained it when he met a part of the enemy's force advancing, which he attacked and routed with great slaughter. A few moments previously a heavy firing on and near the heights announced that our troops had attacked the enemy there. General Brown then approached Major Jessup and informed him that Colonel Miller had carried the heights with the bayonet, and had taken the enemy's artillery. By his order the Major fell back and joined General Ripley on the heights, by whom he was posted on the right of the line which was then forming.

The enemy gave us but little time to rest: he advanced in line, supported by a heavy reserve, evidently with the intention of charging: his left was almost in contact with the 25th before the firing commenced. Our troops took deliberate aim, and our fire was so terrible that in a few minutes his line recoiled, then broke, and officers and men fled from the field. Our line was adjusted and the cartridges taken from the boxes of the soldiers who had been killed and wounded and distributed among those who remained unhurt. In about half an hour the enemy approached again in great force and in good order, and after a severe conflict, which lasted fifteen or twenty minutes, he broke and again fled from the field. Major Jessup, who about the time General Riall was taken had received a wound by a ball passing through the right shoulder, received in this contest a slight wound in the neck and a shot through the right hand. In a short time the enemy was again seen to be advancing, apparently with undiminished force. To preserve the front of the 25th, Major Jessup was obliged to form his men in a single rank and to put all the files closer into that rank. The contest was now more obstinate than in any of the previous attacks of the enemy; for half an hour the blaze from the muskets of the two lines mingled, but our fire was so well directed and so destructive that the enemy was again compelled to retire. During this contest General Scott joined the 25th, and whilst conversing with Major Jessup received a wound in the left shoulder, which com-

pelled him to leave the field. General Brown soon after approached and inquired for General Scott, wishing to devolve on him the command as he was severely wounded, but being informed that General Scott was also wounded he retired. Major Jessup soon after received a violent contusion in the breast by a piece of a shell or perhaps the stock of a rocket, which brought him to the ground; in a few moments, however, he rose and resumed the command, which had temporarily devolved on Captain Murdock. In this attack Captain Kinney and Ensign Hunter of the 25th were killed, and Lieutenants Shaylor, McChain, and Dewitt were severely wounded. So sanguinary had the last conflict been that when it terminated Major Jessup found a considerable interval between his corps and the troops on the left of him. He found the 25th behind a fence, where Major Leavenworth with the fragments of the 9th, 11th, and 22d, not exceeding in all a hundred men, soon joined him and took post on the right. By great exertions on the part of Captains Murdock and Watson the 25th had been furnished with a good supply of cartridges before Major Leavenworth joined.

On the morning of the 26th, the wounded were placed in boats, and in the evening of that day arrived at Buffalo. Whilst this movement was being made by water, the army abandoned its strong position behind the Chippawa, and, after destroying the greatest part of its stores, fell back to the ferry opposite Black Rock, and General Ripley, who commanded, but for the opposition made by Wood, McRee, Towson, Porter, and other officers, would have retreated to the American shore. The army was finally encamped at Fort Erie by the positive order of General Brown, and measures were taken immediately to cover the troops. Had General Drummond availed himself of this hasty and ill-judged retreat not a man of our army could have escaped. Whether it was the purpose of General Ripley to defend Fort Erie or to cross the Niagara, he should have held the Chippawa, which was a strong fortress in itself. There were only two places where it could have been passed: at the bridge which he commanded, and which three hundred men were sufficient to defend against the whole force of the enemy, and at the junction of Lyon's Creek with the Chippawa, where there was a floating bridge. To cross at the former place so long as the American General chose to hold it was impossible, and to have crossed at the latter would have involved the destruction of the British army, even supposing our army to have performed one-half of what it was capable of; for Drummond, after having crossed at Lyon's Creek, would have had several miles to march on a narrow and difficult road through a dense forest, liable at every hundred yards, if opposed by an active and determined enemy, to have

fallen into an ambushade. Half of Porter's brigade, with what remained of the 9th and 25th Regiments, would have been sufficient to defend this defile. The American General could have held General Drummond in check during the remainder of the campaign. At all events, had his object been to hold Fort Erie, he should have maintained his position at the Chippawa until the fort had been strengthened and an entrenched camp formed near it; had his object been to destroy Fort Erie and abandon Canada, (as no doubt it was,) he should have unquestionably maintained his position until the sick, the wounded, the baggage, and public stores had been sent to Buffalo, and transports prepared to cross the army at once to that place. By leaving the Chippawa he put the army, its artillery, all its supplies, and the whole Niagara frontier into the power of the enemy. Fortunately for his reputation and that of the country, Drummond failed to avail himself of any of the advantages thus offered to him. Ripley was, personally, brave; displayed great gallantry on the night of the 25th, but he was a junior officer, his flight from Chippawa had shaken the confidence of all the principal officers in his capacity to command in chief; that of General Brown had previously been shaken, who therefore sent orders to General Gaines at Sackett's Harbor to repair to Fort Erie and take command of the army.

(From *Historical Sketch of the Second War between the United States of America and Great Britain*, by Charles J. Ingersoll. Events of 1814, pp. 90-91, 105-8. Philadelphia, 1849.)

#### **Major Jessup's Narrative of the Sortie from Fort Erie.**

General Brown believed that he must rely entirely upon his own resources, for though aid was promised from another quarter, the daily casualties at Fort Erie were such that it would not, he thought, reach him in time to save his division. Having obtained a perfect knowledge of the enemy's force and dispositions, he determined to attack him in the trenches as soon as a body of militia and volunteers, then arriving in Buffalo, could be passed over. Major Jessup, having three wounds open and his right arm in a sling and being in consequence unable to perform active duty, volunteered to join the army at Fort Erie. On his arrival he found that a council had been assembled and had just broke up, and General Brown was evidently much disappointed in the result. In the course of the evening he expressed himself with great warmth in regard to the conduct of some of the officers present, but he added in his peculiarly emphatic manner, "We must keep our own

councils—the impression must be made that we are done with the affair, but as sure as there is a God in heaven the enemy shall be attacked in his works and beaten, too, so soon as all the volunteers are passed over.”

On the 13th and 14th there was heavy cannonading as well as affairs of pickets. On the 15th, 16th, and the morning of the 17th, there was a good deal of cannonading at intervals, and from about ten o'clock to twelve on the 17th it was incessant. When Major Jessup joined on the 9th, he was placed by General Brown in command of Fort Erie. On the morning of the 17th the General sent for him and informed him that he would attack the enemy at once, and that he should leave him with the 25th, about one hundred and fifty strong, and the artillery and invalids, to protect the fort and camp and cover the retreat of the army should it be repulsed. The General moved out with the troops about two o'clock p. m., attacked and carried the enemy's batteries and blockhouses, captured or destroyed one-third of his whole force, and left him without a single heavy gun or howitzer. We had forty-five officers and several hundred men killed and wounded.

(From *Historical Sketch of the Second War between the United States of America and Great Britain*, by Charles J. Ingersoll. Events of 1814, pp. 151-2.

END OF PART II.

# INDEX.

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## A.

	<i>Page.</i>
Abeel, Lieut., 23d U. S. I.....	423
Abino, Point .....	3, 404
Acton, J.....	136
Adams Co., Pa.....	368, 369
Adams, Wm. H., A. D. C.....	380
Adams, Henry, History of United States.....	404, 408, 426, 443
Addison, Rev. R.....	328
Adlum, Joseph.....	326
Albany, N. Y.....	13, 35, 350, 288, 391, 393, 399, 401
Alexander, Captain.....	372
Alexander, Hugh.....	326
Alexandria.....	108
Allegheny River.....	369, 400, 426
Allen, Wm.....	293, 314, 322, 323
Allen, Dr. E. L.....	106, 158
Allen, Lieut.-Col. Peter.....	438, 448
Allison, Captain.....	272, 278
Amherstburg.....	15, 229, 292, 303, 320
Ancaster.....	3, 4, 16, 22, 23, 277, 294, 295, 296, 300, 301, 307, 398, 461
Anderson, Lieut. Wm., 18th U. S. I.....	334
Andrews, Lieut., 6th Foot.....	220
Anspaugh, Lieut., U. S. Dragoons.....	270, 272, 273
Armistead, Captain, L. G. A.....	214, 454
Armstrong, General John.....	141, 173
Armstrong, General John, Notices of the War of 1812.....	78, 302
Armstrong, Lieut. R. S., Royal Artillery.....	57, 71
Armstrong, Lieut., 1st U. S. Rifles.....	121, 122, 213
Armstrong, Lieut., 22nd U. S. I.....	422
Arnold, Lieut., U. S. Rifles.....	122
Arrowsmith, Major, 23rd U. S. I.....	338
Artillery, Incorporated Militia.....	29, 30, 33, 50, 51, 52
Artillery, Royal 28, 29, 30, 33, 42, 50, 51, 52, 50, 67, 93, 94, 95, 138, 140, 144, 203, 206, 219, 261, 289, 458, 459, 460.....	29, 30, 33, 50, 51, 52
Artillery, Royal Drivers of.....	28, 29, 51, 71, 94, 133, 138, 459
Artillery, Royal Marine.....	39, 97, 98, 100, 109, 408, 412
Artillery, Towson's.....	72
Assembly, Canadian.....	276, 291
Askin, John B.....	152, 155, 163, 212, 214, 215, 225, 454
Aspinwall, Lieut.-Col., 9th U. S. I.....	404, 438
Auburn, N. Y.....	311
Audrain, Captain, U. S. Rangers.....	441
Aurora, N. Y.....	40, 41, 99, 100, 213, 351, 471
Austin, Captain L., A. D. C.....	255
Austin, Captain, U. S. Artillery.....	122
Austin, Lieut., U. S. Rifles.....	92, 93
Austin, Sergeant, Rocket Company.....	331
Axford, John.....	331
Axford, Samuel.....	331

<b>B.</b>	<i>Page</i>
Backus, Stephen.....	332
Backhouse's Mills.....	306
Bacon, Constant.....	9, 10, 11
Bailey, Captain, Royal Scots.....	33
Bailey, Lieut., N. Y. Volunteers.....	215
Baker, Major, 45th U. S. I.....	271, 273
Baldoon.....	309
Baldwin, Nathan.....	332
Ball, Captain Jacob A.....	187
Ball, Lieut.-Col. John, U. S. Dragoons..	298
Ball, John.....	325
Ball, Peter.....	325
Ball, Quartermaster, 4th Lincoln Militia	95
Ballard, Lieut. and Adjutant, 4th U. S. Rifles	213, 214, 454
Baltimore, Md.....	80
Baltimore <i>Federal Gazette</i> .....	112
Barber, John.....	331
Barger, Henry.....	332
Barnard, Benjamin.....	80
Barney, Captain, 89th Regt..	133, 138, 143, 149, 430
Barrett, Richard.....	295
Barrie, Vt.....	114
Barron, Lieut., 11th U. S. I.....	43
Barto, Private.....	300
Barstow, Lieut., 8th Regt.....	62, 220
Barton, Major.....	450
Basden, Captain, 89th Regt.....	143, 205
Batavia, N. Y.....	2, 192, 209, 233, 241, 280, 283, 360, 386, 406, 409
Bates, Adjutant, N. Y. Militia.....	209
Bath, N. Y.....	412
Bathurst, Lord.. 52, 172, 177, 178, 236, 236, 245, 250, 259, 333, 358, 455, 456, 453, 461, 462.	
Battersby, Lieut.-Col. F., Glengarry Light Infantry	61, 91, 93, 133, 144, 202, 204, 205, 238, 260, 261, 262
Baxter's House.....	139
Baynes, Colonel Edward.....	58, 124, 149, 196, 224, 279, 317, 441
Bazeley, —.....	312
Beam, Lieut., 1st Lincoln Militia.....	416
Bean, Ensign, 19th U. S. I.....	153, 422, 435
Bear River.....	287, 308, 309
Beaver Dams.....	71, 88, 189, 258
Becket, Lieut., 14th U. S. I.....	272
Bedel, Lieut.-Colonel, 11th U. S. I.....	212, 223
Bedford Co., Pa.....	369
Bedford, Ensign, 11th U. S. I.....	422
Belknap, Lieut., 23d U. S. I.....	150, 158
Belknap, Lieut. W., N. Y. Militia.....	215
Bell, Captain, 5th U. S. I.....	272
Bell, Mr.....	7
Bellinger, Michael.....	324
Bender, Philip.....	326
Benedict, Charles.....	332
Benn, Ensign, 21st U. S. I.....	155
Beresford, Ship of War.....	127
Bermuda.....	414, 415
Bernard, Major, 14th U. S. I.....	271, 272, 273
Berry, Jack, an Indian.....	430

*B—Continued.*

	<i>Page</i>
Biddle, Captain, U. S. Artillery	39, 44, 100, 109, 151, 152, 154, 156, 408, 421, 479
Bigelow, Lieut. Aaron, 21st U. S. I.	106, 420, 421, 425
Bigger, Captain, Canadian Vols.	210, 215
Bird, Captain, Royal Scots	33
Bird, Lieut., U. S. Artillery	156
Bird, Wm.	313
Bird's House	117
Birdsall, Capt., 4th U. S. Rifles	123, 137, 150, 154, 163, 423, 435
Bissell, Lieut., 1st U. S. I.	213, 422
Bissell, Brig.-Gen. Daniel, U. S. A.	263, 270, 272, 273, 274, 280, 308
Bisschopp, Lieut.-Col. Cecil	359
Blackbird, Indian Chief	16
Black Creek	228, 238, 240, 242, 252, 254, 257, 273, 274, 275, 280, 301, 327
Black Rock	10, 30, 33, 47, 109, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 122, 124, 132, 133, 134, 137, 183, 211, 226, 227, 228, 249, 254, 266, 274, 275, 280, 286, 302, 333, 343, 350, 361, 362, 377, 428, 430, 451, 480.
Blake, Ensign, 9th U. S. I.	156, 422
Blake, Lieut., 11th U. S. I.	356
Blake, Sergt., 11th U. S. I.	357
Blakely, Ensign, N. Y. Vols.	215
Bliss, Capt. John, 11th U. S. I.	112, 337, 422
Bombardiers, United States	426
Bonnell, Mr.	193
Bordeaux	171
Boston <i>Columbian Centinel</i>	49, 458
Boston <i>Fankee</i>	409
Bostwick, Lieut.-Col. Henry	291, 314, 330
Bostwick, Capt. John	224, 287
Boughner, Martin	313
Boughner, Joseph	313
Boughton, Capt., N. Y. Vols.	69, 153, 155, 156, 162, 432
Boughton, Col., N. Y. Vols.	69
Bowen, J., a seaman	136
Bowen, Major, Oxford Militia	323
Bowlby, Thomas, J. P.	318, 319, 320
Bowman, Lieut., Lincoln Militia	33
Bowman, Lieut., 21st U. S. I.	157, 159, 435
Boyd, Samuel	327
Boyle, Lieut., 8th Foot	33
Bradbridge, Capt., 8th Foot	220
Bradford, Capt., 21st U. S. I.	213, 214, 454
Bradford, Capt., 19th U. S. I.	312
Bradford, Ensign, 11th U. S. I.	112
Bradley, Abraham	112
Bradshaw, Mrs.	325
Brady, Lieut.-Col. Hugh, 22nd U. S. I.	106, 213, 336, 337, 338, 339, 422, 424
Brady, Lieut. John, 22nd U. S. I.	164, 340
Brae, John	295
Brancepeth Castle	333
Brannan's Official Letters	38, 272, 274
Brant, Ensign, 23rd U. S. I.	213
Brereton, Capt., Royal Scots	95
Bridge, Capt.	71
Bridgewater	109, 242, 247, 279, 343, 349, 350, 351, 356, 357, 368, 423, 472
Bridgewater Heights	220
Bridgewater Mills	424
Brimball, Lieut., 9th U. S. I.	43

Brink Isaiah .....	53
Brinck, Lieut., 1st U. S. I. ....	213
Brock, General .....	53
Brooke, Major, 23rd U. S. I. ....	157, 159, 208, 209, 211, 212, 213, 221, 223, 419, 454
Brooks, Lieut.-Col. Micah, N. Y. Militia .....	429, 435, 440
Brooks, Wm .....	332
Broome Co., N. Y. ....	8
Brotherhood, Samuel .....	332
Brothertown Indians .....	405
Brown, Major-General Jacob .....	25, 26, 34, 37, 38, 42, 43, 48, 64, 68, 72, 74, 75, 78, 80, 86, 87, 90, 96, 97, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108, 110, 111, 112, 121, 122, 128, 129, 130, 171, 173, 177, 192, 197, 198, 199, 206, 207, 208, 211, 215, 220, 223, 224, 233, 234, 240, 241, 242, 253, 255, 256, 257, 259, 263, 275, 277, 279, 284, 285, 298, 309, 327, 334, 335, 338, 339, 340, 341, 344, 345, 346, 349, 350, 351, 352, 354, 355, 359, 360, 361, 362, 365, 366, 367, 372, 377, 383, 386, 388, 389, 390, 398, 399, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 417, 420, 421, 423, 424, 426, 429, 430, 431, 438, 441, 444, 449, 450, 456, 458, 463, 464, 465, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482.
Brown, Capt. J., 103rd Foot ..	27, 28, 91, 96
Brown, Lieut., 11th U. S. I. ....	422
Brown, Lieut., 23rd U. S. I. ....	150, 157, 214
Brown, Lieut., N. Y. Vols. ....	209, 215
Brown, James .....	313
Brown, Joseph .....	327
Brown, Samuel .....	313
Brown, Major Wm., Oxford Militia .....	314
Brown's Bridge .....	242, 257, 259
Brown's House .....	81
Browne's House .....	306
Browning, Lieut., 9th U. S. I. ....	422
Brymner, A., Excerpts .....	112
Buck, Major, 8th Foot .....	29, 31, 50, 360
Buck's Road .....	139
Buel, Capt., N. Y. Vols. ....	215
Buffalo, N. Y .....	7, 10, 14, 17, 18, 25, 38, 49, 64, 75, 79, 103, 106, 109, 110, 112, 116, 118, 119, 122, 123, 177, 189, 191, 192, 197, 210, 213, 233, 259, 280, 282, 284, 298, 307, 317, 318, 333, 360, 361, 366, 371, 372, 374, 378, 379, 386, 388, 389, 393, 398, 400, 403, 404, 405, 416, 417, 418, 419, 426, 429, 430, 433, 435, 440, 443, 444, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 458, 453, 462, 463, 472, 480, 481.
Buffalo Gazette .....	75, 100, 191, 386, 409, 413, 416, 420, 423, 427, 428, 437, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443.
Bull, Capt., N. Y. Militia .....	209
Bull, Dr. E. W. ....	104, 282, 298
Bull, Lieut.-Col. Robert .....	368, 373
Bullock, Capt., 41st Regt. ....	143, 145, 149
Bunnell's House .....	306
Bunting, Samuel .....	325
Bunting, Thomas .....	325
Bunting, Widow .....	325
Burbank, Capt., 21st U. S. I. ....	106, 422
Burdick, Freedom .....	314

V.

*B—Continued.*

*Page.*

Burdock, Mr.....	193
Burford.....	4, 22, 23, 70, 77, 79, 275, 291, 309, 323
Burghardt, Lieut., 9th U. S. I.....	342, 421
Burlington.....	3, 4, 6, 9, 14, 16, 21, 22, 23, 30, 36, 52, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64, 65, 82, 84, 96, 97, 103, 110, 115, 116, 125, 130, 131, 147, 181, 226, 227, 232, 234, 245, 256, 258, 264, 267, 268, 269, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 287, 291, 296, 297, 301, 304, 305, 306, 309, 310, 312, 315, 321, 374, 442, 445, 459, 462, 466.
Burnet, General Wm., N. Y. Militia.....	438
Burnham, Martin.....	319
Burns, Rev'd Mr.....	325
Burr, Major, N. Y. Militia.....	209
Burrows, Lieut., 103d Regt.....	145, 149
Burwell, James.....	332
Burwell, Lieut.-Col. Mahlon.....	224, 293, 294, 328, 331
Burwell, Robert.....	332
Burwell, Samuel.....	332
Burwell, Mr.....	188
Burwell's House.....	294
Bushnell, Lieut., 19th U. S. I.....	150, 158, 435
Butler, Capt., N. Y. Vols.....	448
Butler, Johnson.....	324
Butler, Thomas.....	324
Butler's Barracks.....	268
Byard, Jacob.....	313

**C.**

Caddy, John.....	331
Cady, Major.....	451
Caldwell, Capt. Wm.....	25, 70, 312, 313, 397
Caldwell, Colonel Wm.....	313
Calhoun, Lieut., U. S. Rifles.....	122
Cameron, D.....	314
Camp, Major.....	41
Camp, Ensign, 2d U. S. Rifles.....	422, 424, 425
Campbell, Lieut.-Col. John B., 11th U. S. I.....	16, 17, 18, 40, 43, 45, 91, 360, 370, 474.
Campbell, Lieut.-Col., 6th Regt.....	196, 202, 203, 204, 206
Campbell, Captain, 8th Regt.....	67, 91, 93
Campbell, Ensign, Incorporated Militia.....	95
Campbell, Estate of Major.....	326
Campbell, Lieut. A., Royal Scots.....	33
Campbell, Lieut. W., Royal Scots.....	33
Campbell, Lieut., U. S. Artillery.....	44, 421, 424
Campbell, Lieut., Pa. Vols.....	377
Campbell, Hon. Wm.....	314, 322
Campfield's.....	23
Canadian Archives.....	415, 436
Canadian Fencibles.....	58, 306
Canandaigua, N. Y.....	7, 192, 381, 382, 383, 386, 388, 389, 390, 391, 394, 396, 398, 399, 402, 403, 406, 407, 419, 436, 437, 441, 442.
Canard River.....	292
Cantine, Lieut., 23rd U. S. I.....	157
Carlisle, Pa.....	371
Carpenter, Mr.....	192
Carr, Dr.....	367
Carr, Robert.....	318

Carroll, Capt., Oxford Militia.....	183
Carson, John.....	332
Carter, Lieut. R. A.....	261, 262
Cartwright, Hon. Richard.....	10, 17
Carryl, George.....	151
Cass, Governor Lewis.....	299, 308
Cassady, Samuel.....	325
Case, Capt., N. Y. Militia.....	215
Case, Lieut., N. Y. Militia.....	215
Cataract, Battle of.....	463
Catteragus, N. Y.....	282, 400, 426
Catteragus Chiefs.....	430
Cayuga Creek.....	254
Cayuga Co., N. Y.....	8, 10, 438
Cayuga Chief.....	70
Cayuga Indians.....	9, 71
Cayuga Riflemen.....	222
Chambers, Capt. P. L., 41st Regt.....	206, 213, 238, 269, 297, 299, 300, 301, 303, 306, 307, 313.
Chambers, Ensign, N. Y. Militia.....	215
Champlain Lake.....	115, 173, 237
Champlain Line.....	234
Charlotteville.....	114
Charlton, Lieut. R. A.....	27, 28, 144, 145, 149, 296
Charwell, Brig of War.....	59, 60, 82, 85, 86, 134, 136, 191, 197, 315, 457
Chatfield, Lieut., N. Y. Militia.....	209, 222
Chase, Mark.....	332
Chauncey, Commodore Isaac.....	64, 77, 78, 126, 130, 134, 171, 172, 174, 233, 236, 245, 253, 256, 259, 279, 360, 390, 391, 442, 450, 457, 465.
Chewett, Wm.....	33, 332
Chillicothe, Ohio.....	320, 460
Chippawa.....	5, 25, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 54, 55, 70, 72, 80, 88, 89, 90, 92, 96, 97, 98, 102, 103, 106, 107, 108, 116, 130, 153, 176, 184, 189, 192, 206, 210, 214, 220, 223, 225, 227, 228, 232, 233, 236, 238, 239, 240, 242, 247, 254, 256, 265, 266, 268, 274, 278, 280, 285, 302, 307, 315, 320, 327, 335, 341, 342, 343, 344, 346, 348, 350, 354, 357, 359, 360, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 373, 374, 376, 377, 404, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 417, 418, 423, 424, 425, 429, 431, 453, 459, 463, 472, 473, 476, 477, 480, 481.
Chippawa Creek.....	54, 55, 56, 235, 241, 242, 246, 249, 255, 257, 258, 264, 271, 272, 320, 343, 344, 352, 353, 354, 360, 361, 362, 364, 365, 366, 373, 404, 465, 466, 467, 475.
Chippawa Road.....	271, 273, 274
Childs, Lieut. E., 9th U. S. I.....	80, 151, 156, 214, 454
Chiles, Lieut., U. S. Artillery.....	156
Chorus, Castell.....	324
Chryrtler's Farm.....	334
Chunn, Capt., 19th U. S. I.....	157, 159, 416, 434, 435
Church, Ensign, N. Y. Vols.....	215
Churchill, Lieut.-Col., N. Y. Vols.....	203, 209, 215, 232
Cilley, Lieut., 21st U. S. I.....	106, 422
Cissna, Ensign, 19th U. S. I.....	150, 435
Cissney, Lieut., 19th U. S. I.....	153
Civil John, Indian Chief.....	311
Clarence, N. Y.....	443
Clark, James.....	325, 326

## C—Continued.

	Page.
Clark, Capt., U. S.	350, 351, 352
Clarke, Col. Thomas, Lincoln Militia	411
Clarke, Ensign, 100th Regt.	33
Clarke, Ensign, N. Y. Militia	215
Clarke, George	295
Clarke, Lieut. I., 11th U. S. I.	214, 419
Clarke's House	247
Clarke's Mills	177
Claus, Lieut.-Col. Wm.	8, 193, 326
Clemens, Lieut., 41st Regt.	461
Clement, Lieut., Lincoln Militia	33
Clement, Widow	327
Clench, Ralph	325, 326
Cleveland, Ohio	75, 461
Clifford, Major M., 89th Regt.	34, 91, 93
Clyne, Lieut., Royal Scots	95
Cobb, Lieut., 1st U. S. Rifles	122, 214
Cochrane, Sir Alexander	176, 290, 402, 414, 415, 436
Cockburn, Major	269, 306
Coffin, Assistant-Commissary	7
Colclough, Capt., 103rd Regt.	145, 149
Colegrove, Capt., N. Y. Militia	447
Collard, John	327
Collier, Capt., Royal Navy	305
Collins, Surgeon, 41st Regt.	300
Collver, A.	314
Collver, Aaron	313
Collver, John	313
Colored Corps	29, 51, 71
Conguichity Creek	118, 120, 428
Connecticut River	114
Conjocty Creek	121, 428, 435
Conkling, Lieut., U. S. Navy	136, 137
Conran, Major-General	59, 86, 116, 119, 120, 124, 131, 133, 172, 178, 187, 206
Cook, John	332
Cook's Mills	242, 257, 258, 259, 260, 262, 263, 264, 265, 270, 271, 274
Cooper, Lieut., 11th U. S. I.	112, 422
Cooper, James	326
Coore, Major	115, 117, 141, 147, 174, 175, 189
Cope's House	62
Corbea, Assistant-Surgeon	220
Corbett, Wm.	318
Corliss, Swaine	324
Cornwall	58
Cotton, Seth	64, 416
Couche, Deputy-Commissary-General	36, 60, 180, 181
Crane, George	332
Crane, Jacob	313
Crane, James	313
Crahamer, Jeremiah	295
Crawford, John	332
Crawford, Lieut., 11th U. S. I.	212, 214, 337, 340, 356
Crawford, Samuel	332
Crete, Pa.	379
Croker, John Wilson	414
Crooker, Capt., 9th U. S. I.	47, 473
Crooks, James	325

<i>C—Continued.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Crookshank, Deputy-Commissary-General.....		193
Crosby, Lieut.-Col., N. Y. Militia.....	208, 209,	232
Crouch, Capt., N. Y. Militia.....		215
Crowther, Capt., 41st Regt.....		25
Cruger, Major Daniel, N. Y. Militia.....		438, 450
Crysler, Adam.....		53
Culbertson, Lieut., 22nd U. S. I.....		122
Culver's House.....	201,	306
Cumberland Co., Pa.....		368
Cumberland Volunteers.....		369
Cummings, Ensign, 21st U. S. I.....	155, 158,	214, 435
Cummings, Thomas.....		327, 329
Cuppge, Lieut., 103rd Regt.....		145, 149
Curtis, Captain, Oxford Militia.....		193
Curtis, Thomas.....		295
Cushman, Lieut., 9th U. S. I.....	156, 340,	422

**D.**

Daliba, Capt., U. S. Artillery.....		41
D'Alton, Capt., 90th Regt.....		144, 269
Dance, E., Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General.....	7, 11,	291
Davidson, Lieut., 22nd U. S. I.....		423
Davidson, Lieut., U. S. Rifles.....		122
Davis, Brig.-General, N. Y. Militia.....	192, 207, 208,	215, 225, 232, 438, 451
Davis, Colonel, N. Y. Militia.....		383
Davis, Capt., N. Y. Militia.....		446
Davis, Lieut., 11th U. S. I.....		214
Davis, John.....		295, 313
Deane, Major, Royal Scots.....	21, 29,	67
Dearborn, Major-General H.....		350
DeBerry, Lieut., Regt. De Watteville.....		220
DeCew, Eber.....		318
DeCoo's House.....		72
Deidrich, Lieut., 23rd U. S. I.....		423
DeJordan, Peter.....		325
Delapierre, Mr.....		209
Delhi.....		335
Delaware Village.....	21, 193, 287,	307, 309, 311, 312, 313
Delaware Indians.....		232
Denbon, Sergt.-Major.....		156
Denman, Capt.....		97, 467
Dennis Family.....		317
Dennis, Jane.....		319, 320
Dennis, John.....		319, 320
Dennis, Sophia.....		319, 320
DePuisaye's House.....		78, 81
DeRottenburg, Major General F.....		24
Detroit. 10, 21, 23, 36, 53, 224, 242, 259, 276, 277, 278, 285, 292, 298, 307, 308, 309, 311, 312, 315, 320, 321, 328, 453, 462.....		
Detroit River.....		292
De Watteville, Major General L. 34, 190, 195, 203, 204, 205, 228, 235, 236, 238, 240, 246, 250, 265, 267, 269, 270, 281, 296, 300, 303, 306, 307, 315, 454, 462.....		
Dewing, Sergeant.....		338
DeWitt, Lieut., 25th U. S. I.....		43, 450
Dick, Lieut., Pa. Vols.....	373, 375, 377,	378, 379, 422
Dickson, J., Royal Marine.....		136

*D—Continued.**Page.*

Dickson, Lieut.-Col., 2d Lincoln Militia.....	32, 33, 35, 50, 130, 323, 413
Dickson, Wm.....	324, 325
Dickson's House.....	75
Diligence, U. S. Schooner.....	114
Dixon, John, a Marauder.....	193, 275, 276, 317, 318, 319, 320
Dixon, Elizabeth.....	310, 320
Dobbin, Lieut.-Col., N. Y. Militia.....	8, 99, 208, 209, 210, 283, 385, 417, 423, 433, 438, 447, 448.
Dobbin, Adjutant.....	209, 434
Dobbin, Brigade-Major.....	194, 446
Dobbs, Capt. Alexander, R. N.....	84, 85, 88, 117, 119, 132, 134, 135, 142, 143, 145, 148, 149, 186, 191, 230, 239, 243, 316, 358, 425.
Dochstader, Henry.....	317, 318, 320
Dolson's House.....	292
Dorman, Capt., 5th U. S. I.....	271, 272, 273
Dorman, Wm., McEwen & Co.....	325
Doty, John.....	326
Douglas, Alexander.....	326
Douglas, Levi.....	313
Douglass, Lieut., U. S. Bombardiers.....	156, 432
Douglass Battery.....	152, 162, 165
Dover.....	14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 72, 193, 309, 310, 317, 330, 370, 398
Dover Mills.....	330
Dowland, Sergt., Oxford Militia.....	193
Dox, Major Jacob, N. Y. Militia.....	63, 210, 394, 418
Dragoons, U. S. Light.....	420
Dragoons, 19th Light.....	14, 15, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 47, 50, 51, 59, 80, 91, 93, 94, 139, 143, 146, 195, 206, 227, 238, 243, 246, 277, 297, 301, 303, 316, 335, 398, 459, 462, 473.
Dragoons, Provincial Light.....	29, 30, 51, 54, 94, 397
Drake, Wm.....	276, 318, 330.
Drummond, Lieut.-Col. Wm., 10th Regt.....	8, 96, 118, 147, 148, 153, 154, 161, 167, 168, 169.
Drummond, Lieut.-General Sir Gordon.....	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 31, 33, 35, 36, 50, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 65, 66, 69, 72, 75, 77, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 91, 92, 93, 95, 96, 101, 106, 108, 109, 112, 115, 116, 118, 120, 122, 123, 124, 131, 132, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 148, 151, 152, 153, 165, 169, 170, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 178, 179, 182, 183, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 192, 195, 196, 197, 198, 200, 201, 202, 203, 214, 224, 225, 225, 229, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 243, 244, 246, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 256, 257, 259, 260, 262, 263, 265, 269, 270, 276, 277, 279, 281, 287, 288, 296, 297, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 315, 316, 321, 322, 323, 327, 329, 333, 358, 401, 402, 424, 427, 430, 441, 444, 453, 454, 455, 456, 458, 461, 462, 477, 478, 480, 481.
Ducks (Islands).....	77, 78, 237
Dudley, Major.....	312
Dunham, Lieut.-Col., N. Y. Militia.....	209
Dunham, Major, N. Y. Militia.....	232
Dunmeade, Wm.....	331
Dunn, Capt. Samuel, Pa. Vols.....	363
Dunn, Capt., N. Y. Militia.....	385
Durham, John.....	53

**E.**

Eastman, Sergt., 11th U. S. I.....	137
Edmunds, General.....	399

Edwards, Joseph .....	325
Edwards, Wm .....	378
Eighteen Mile Creek .....	10, 233
Eggleston, John .....	325
Eleven Mile Creek .....	10, 25, 118, 189, 280
Eleven Mile Woods .....	442
Elliott, Capt., Indian Dept. ....	25, 409
Elliot, Capt., D. A. Q. M. G. ....	32, 50, 90, 92, 138, 143, 145, 149, 162, 167
Elliott, Capt., U. S. N. ....	126
Elliott, Capt., N. Y. Vols. ....	209
Elliott, Col. Matthew .....	438
Emery, John .....	325
Engineers, Provincial. ....	30, 52
Engineers, Royal .....	29, 30, 51, 52, 60, 67, 94, 95, 133, 144, 203
Engouville, Lieut., R. E. ....	27
Erie, Pa .....	74, 75, 151, 285, 369, 371, 416, 435
Erie, Lake .....	14, 15, 17, 21, 25, 119, 134, 135, 176, 191, 229, 230, 234, 240, 242, 245, 250, 286, 292, 306, 316, 317, 360, 369, 389, 402, 414, 454, 455, 456.
Erie Roads .....	307
Erly, Dr. John .....	281, 461
Eustace, Capt., 19th Light Dragoons. ....	138, 195, 301, 303
Evans, Major Thomas, 8th Foot. ....	32, 50, 51, 62, 91, 93, 143, 144, 170
Evans, Lieut.-Colonel Wm., 41st Regt. ....	118, 120, 453, 460, 461
Everett, Dr., 21st U. S. I. ....	158
Everts, Major Eranthus, N. Y. Militia .....	438

## F.

Fairchild, Noah .....	313
Fairstock Hotel .....	358
Fallon, Lieut., 103d Regt. ....	145, 149, 168
Fannetsburg, Pa. ....	369
Fanning, Capt., U. S. Artillery .....	152, 154, 156, 162
Fanning, John .....	327
Farmer's Brother, Seneca Chief .....	430
Felton, Lieut., N. Y. Vols .....	442
Fencibles, Canadian .....	38, 306
Fenton, Lieut.-Col., Pa. Vols .....	43, 368, 369, 370, 371, 417
Ferguson, Lieut., 22nd U. S. I. ....	422
Fields, Rose .....	325
Fifty-Mile Creek .....	55
Fifehill, John .....	137
Finch, Titus .....	331
Finch's Mills .....	15, 17, 276
Fischer, Lieut.-Col., Regt. De Watteville. ....	125, 138, 139, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 157, 167, 175, 203, 206, 220, 434.
Fisher, Lieut. Otis, 9th U. S. I. ....	338, 422
Fisk, Lieut., 19th U. S. I. ....	422
Fisk, Hon. James .....	114
Fitzgerald Estate .....	325
FitzGibbon, Capt. James, Glengarry Light Infantry .....	81, 290
Five-Mile Meadows .....	423
Fleming, Capt., N. Y. Vols .....	60, 209, 447
Fleming, Lieut.-Col., N. Y. Vols. ....	208, 363, 367, 409, 438, 443
Fleming, Robert, U. S. Ind. Dept. ....	430
Fleming's House .....	287
Foote, Lieut., 9th U. S. I. ....	156

*F—Continued.*

Page.

Fontaine, Lieut., U. S. Artillery.....	60, 150, 156, 352
Forsyth, Mrs.....	10, 325
Forsyth's House.....	228
Fort Chippawa.....	49
Fort Erie, Plan of Siege Operations.....	228
Fort Erie, Plan of the Entrenched Camp at.....	302
Fort Erie... 3, 5, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 38, 42, 47, 50, 55, 71, 74, 89, 103, 108, 109, 110, 112, 115, 116, 117, 119, 122, 123, 124, 130, 131, 132, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 144, 146, 150, 151, 152, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 168, 174, 176, 178, 182, 183, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 192, 194, 195, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 207, 208, 211, 213, 214, 215, 220, 221, 223, 224, 225, 226, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 236, 242, 244, 245, 247, 250, 251, 253, 254, 257, 259, 266, 273, 275, 277, 278, 280, 282, 285, 286, 288, 289, 290, 297, 298, 302, 310, 316, 317, 327, 328, 343, 350, 358, 360, 361, 363, 368, 372, 378, 404, 416, 417, 420, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 431, 434, 435, 437, 439, 441, 442, 443, 445, 450, 451, 452, 453, 456, 458, 461, 462, 463, 464, 480, 481, 482.	
Fort George. 29, 51, 54, 56, 57, 58, 61, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 96, 106, 117, 126, 128, 129, 130, 131, 133, 172, 173, 176, 183, 184, 189, 191, 195, 198, 199, 200, 228, 230, 231, 232, 233, 235, 241, 243, 246, 248, 256, 258, 264, 268, 270, 274, 289, 294, 298, 300, 317, 374, 442, 444, 445, 459, 461, 465, 466, 476, 477,	
Fort Meigs.....	312
Fort Missassauga. 51, 54, 56, 61, 70, 71, 79, 82, 83, 84, 85, 87, 88, 92, 231, 243, 268, 360, 459.	
Fort Niagara.. 25, 51, 61, 64, 68, 69, 70, 71, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 87, 88, 97, 126, 130, 171, 177, 198, 226, 229, 233, 234, 235, 240, 241, 243, 244, 322, 333, 360, 381, 445, 450, 465.	
Fort Oswego.....	24
Fort Riall.....	68
Fortune, Lieut., 100th Regt.....	33
Forty Mile Creek.....	55, 59, 72, 76, 79, 243
Foster, Capt. C..... 144, 153, 154, 155, 156, 163, 206, 317, 322, 323, 413, 416	
Foster, Adjutant Anselm.....	187
Foster, Capt. W. L., 9th U. S. I.....	422, 432
Foulk, Capt., 22d U. S. I.....	422
Four-Mile Creek.....	80, 395, 396
Fowle, Lieut., 9th U. S. I.....	422
Fox, Lieut., Royal Scots.....	32, 33, 50
Francis, Capt. Wm., Norfolk Militia.. 275, 276, 278, 280, 289, 315, 317, 318, 319	
Francis, Thomas.....	318
Frankfort, Ky.....	460
Franklin County, Pa.....	368, 377
Franklinton, Ohio.....	460
Fraser, Capt., Incorporated Militia.....	95
Fraser, Lieut., Royal Scots.....	91, 95
Frazer, Lieut. and Brigade-Major 209, 210, 213, 214, 363, 406, 418, 429, 430, 434.	
Frazer, Volunteer, 100th Regt.....	145, 149
Freeman, Capt., N. Y. Vols.....	63, 446
Freer, Capt. Noah.....	192, 303, 305, 306, 307
Frenchman's Creek..... 5, 118, 214, 226, 227, 228, 233, 235, 270, 298, 326, 345	
French Mills.....	115, 331
Frey, Mrs.....	326
Fuller, Dr., 23d U. S. I.....	158
Fulman, John.....	332

## G.

Page.

Gaines, Brig.-General E. P.	87, 97, 110, 122, 123, 129, 137, 150, 151, 152, 156, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 420, 433, 442, 466, 473, 481.	
Galbraith, Walter		332
Gale, Dr., 23d U. S. I.		158
Galloway, Major, Pa. Vols		374
Galooes (Rapids)		237
Gander's House		227, 228
Ganson, Major, N. Y. Militia		209
Gardner, Lieut.-Col. C. K., Adjutant General	37, 39, 41, 43, 74, 100, 213, 214, 274, 335, 342, 412, 421, 429, 463, 467.	
Gardner, Capt., 103d Regt.		145, 149
Gardner, Lieut., 41st Regt.		145, 149
Garner, Alexander		325
Gassaway, Lieut.		271, 273
General Pike, Ship of War		129
Genesee County, N. Y.	8, 19, 209, 298, 438	
Genesee Falls		10
Genesee River	10, 233, 257, 336, 391, 394, 400, 465	
Geneseo, N. Y.		138
Geneva, N. Y.		110
Gesseau, Charles		325
Gibbon, Lieut., 100th Regt.		33
Gibbs, Barnabas		318
Gibbs, John		318
Gibson, Lieut.-Col., 4th U. S. Rifles	208, 209, 211, 214, 223, 454	
Gibson, Mr.		26
Gifford, Lieut., 25th U. S. I.		422
Gilbert, Ira		331
Gilbert, Adjutant, N. Y. Vols.		194, 446
Gillet, Lieut., N. Y. Vols.		215
Gingens, Lieut., Regt. DeWatteville.		220
Girty, Pridaux		332
Glasgow, Major-General.		49
Glegg, Major J. B.	32, 49, 90, 189, 206, 261, 262, 293, 416	
Glangarry Light Infantry.	65, 81, 107, 171, 195, 197, 202, 204, 205, 219, 227, 228, 240, 242, 252, 257, 260, 261, 262, 265, 267, 271, 273, 290, 300, 301, 431, 459, 460.	
Glew, Capt., 41st Regt	91, 92, 93, 143, 145, 149	
Goff, Elijah		332
Goodell, Lieut., 23d U. S. I.		213
Goodfellow, Lieut., N. Y. Vols.		138
Goodrich, Capt., 11th U. S. I.	112, 421, 425	
Gordon, Asst. Commissary of Ordnance		70, 184
Gordon, Capt. S., Pa. Vols.		368, 370, 376
Gordon, Lieut.-Col. John, Royal Scots.	29, 33, 34, 36, 51, 91, 93, 108, 202, 203, 205, 220.	
Gore, Capt., 89th Regt.		96
Goulburn, Hon. Henry		463
Graham, General, N. Y. Militia.		438
Graham, Quartermaster, N. Y. Militia		451
Grand Island		25, 239
Grand River	4, 22, 23, 55, 242, 277, 278, 280, 295, 296, 297, 299, 300, 301, 305, 309, 310, 311, 312, 316, 329, 393, 395, 462.	
Grand River Swamp		297, 301
Granger, Erastus, Indian Agent		137, 333, 387, 389, 400

Grant, Col.	125
Grant, Lieut., 4th U. S. Rifles	214
Grant, Finlay	295
Grant & Kerby	326
Grant's Hill	369
Gray, Lieut., 89th Regt.	95
Gray, Wm.	295
Green, Ensign, 19th U. S. I.	155, 435
Green, Quartermaster, N. Y. Vols	194, 210, 418, 446
Green, Samuel	318
Green, Mr.	398
Greenbush, N. Y.	81, 372
Grenadier Island	237
Grieg, Staff Adjutant	32, 50
Grier, John	325
Grindage, Major, 15th U. S. I.	271
Grinded, Mr.	136
Greensey, Samuel	331
Guerriere, Ship of War	128

## H.

Hagerman, Lieut.-Col., Canadian Militia	206, 258
Hailes, Lieut., 41st Regt.	145, 149
Hale, Capt., 11th U. S. I.	191, 214, 223
Hale, Capt., N. Y. Vols.	215
Hale, Lieut. W. F., 11th U. S. I.	214
Halifax, N. S.	322
Hall, Capt., Oxford Militia	193
Hall, Nathaniel N., Assist. Inspector Gen.	159, 163
Hall, Ensign, 41st Regt.	145, 149
Hall, Lieut., 11th U. S. I.	112, 155, 422, 435
Hall, Lieut., U. S. Artillery	44
Hall, Major, Assistant-Inspector-General	209, 213
Hall, Major-General Amos.	104, 110, 154, 160, 383, 384, 386, 388, 389, 397, 429, 438, 440.
Hall, Sir Robert R. N.	306
Hamilton, Capt., U. S. Rifles	110, 122, 428
Hamilton, Lieut.-Col., 100th Regt.	25, 28, 62, 67, 76, 79, 89, 92, 93
Hamilton, Robert	326, 327
Hamilton & Co.	326
Hamilton's House	56
Harding, Capt., N. Y. Vols	68, 153, 155, 156, 162, 194, 432, 446
Hardison, Benjamin	326
Hardscrabble	10, 25, 409
Harrington, Wm.	337
Harris, Capt. S., U. S. Dragoons	39, 46, 336, 337, 338, 416, 477
Harris, Lieut.-Col., N. Y. Vols	385
Harris, Master, Royal Navy	145, 149
Harris, John G.	318
Harrison, Capt., 42nd U. S. I.	43, 45, 47
Harrison, General W. H.	4, 10
Harman, Lieut. Geo., 82d Regt.	220
Hartman, David	325
Hartwell, Samuel	53
Hartwell, Stephen	53

<i>H—Continued.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Harvey, Lieut.-Col. John, D. A. G.	3, 6, 23, 82, 84, 85, 90, 94, 119, 124, 135, 139, 141, 144, 177, 178, 187, 203, 206, 220, 227, 228, 247, 248, 258, 262, 263, 265, 268, 281, 295, 296, 300, 312, 320, 321, 427, 460, 461.	
Haswell, Lieut., Royal Scots		95
Hathaway, Lieut., N. Y. Vols.		194, 416
Hatt, Major, 5th Lincoln Militia		95
Hatt, Mr.		294
Haun's Tyce		117, 238
Havre de Grace, Md.		17
Hazen, Lieut., 103d Regt.		145, 149
Hecken, Capt., Regt. DeWatteville		220
Hecken, Lieut., Regt. DeWatteville		220
Hemphill, Lieut., Royal Scots		91, 95
Henderson, Robert		330
Hendrick, Lieut., Royal Scots		53
Henley, Thomas		332
Henry, Ensign, 103d Regt.		145
Heron, Andrew		325
Herkimer Co., N. Y.		106
Hill, Capt. J. L., 41st Regt.		220, 454, 460
Hill, Lieut., 8th Regt.		67
Hill, Mrs.		326
Hindman, Major, U. S. Artillery	39, 41, 44, 48, 98, 100, 109, 113, 152, 154, 155, 156, 160, 161, 163, 213, 254, 282, 338, 347, 352, 353, 408, 464, 465.	
Historical Sketch of the War, Ingersoll's		473, 481, 482
Hogan, Major, H. D. A. Q. M. G.		253
Holcroft, Capt. Thomas, Royal Artillery		289
Holding, Lieut., 21st U. S. I.		158, 213, 350
Holland, Capt. J. H.	21, 32, 33, 34, 36, 50, 71, 72, 90, 92, 93,	269
Holmes, Lieut.-Col.		15
Holmes, Dr.		325
Hooper, Lieut., N. Y. Vols.		418, 420
Hope Cottage		230
Hopkins, Noah		53, 433
Hopkins, Lieut.-Col. Caleb, N. Y. Militia		208, 209, 438
Hopper, Adjutant, 89th Regt		95
Hopper, Mr.		192, 418
Horn's, Tyce		225
Horrell, Lieut., 15th U. S. I.		271, 273
Horton, Lieut., 19th Light Dragoons		32, 303
Howell, Phineas		326
Hovey, Cornelius		53
Hubbard, Major, N. Y. Militia		209
Hubbard, Corporal Zabine		357
Hudson, J.		136
Hull, Capt. A., 9th U. S. I.		47, 111, 421, 425
Hull, Capt., N. Y. Vols.	68, 194, 209,	212, 446
Hunt, Lieut., N. Y. Vols.		423
Hunter, Ensign, 25th U. S. I.		421, 480
Huntley, Enoch		332
Huoy, Ensign, 103d Regt.		149
Huron, Lake	25, 190, 191, 193, 240, 246, 267, 280, 308,	455, 456
Hyde, Midshipman		136, 145, 149
Hyde, Shearman		314

I.

Page.

Incorporated Militia.	25, 30, 36, 51, 52, 72, 83, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 133, 139, 144, 202, 227, 228, 239, 240, 242, 246, 265, 267, 268.
Indian Department.	22
Indians, Brothertown.	405
Indians, Canadian.	373
Indians, Five Nation.	280
Indians, Grand River.	270
Indians, Stockbridge.	406
Ingersoll, Captain, 9th U. S. I.	212, 214, 223
Ingersoll, Lieut. Charles, Provincial Light Dragoons.	397, 398
Ingersoll, Lieut., 23rd U. S. I.	213, 423
Ingersoll, Charles J., Historian.	473, 481, 482
Irondiquet, N. Y.	10
Irwin, Capt., 103rd Regt.	145, 149, 167, 169
Irvine Capt., U. S. Rifles.	270, 271, 273
Izard, Major-General George.	114, 115, 172, 197, 198, 226, 233, 234, 237, 238, 240, 241, 242, 244, 249, 254, 256, 263, 270, 274, 275, 280, 282, 283, 284, 286, 288, 297, 298, 290, 307, 308, 445, 458, 462.

J

Jack, Lieut., Royal Artillery Drivers.	33
Jackson, Lieut., Royal Scots.	33
Jacobs, Ensign G., 9th U. S. I.	422
Jacobs, Ensign J. P., 9th U. S. I.	422
James, Lieut.-Col. Wm.	312, 321
Jarvis, Wm.	166, 168
Jefferson, Ship of War.	127
Jenkins, Col.	388, 396
Jenoway, Mrs. Hannah.	230
Jenoway, Lieut., Royal Scots.	231, 232
Jervois, Capt.	79, 81, 82, 90, 92
Jessup, Major T. S.	18, 40, 45, 46, 98, 100, 213, 336, 339, 340, 341, 357, 365, 422, 424, 463, 469, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482
Johnson, Ensign, 100th Regt.	33
Johnson, Lieut., U. S. Dragoons.	425
Johnson, Henry, Interpreter.	363, 367, 368
Johnson, John.	53
Johnson, Sir Wm.	367
Johnson, Wm.	331
Jones, Capt. Jacob, U. S. Navy.	78, 126
Jones, Ensign, 21st U. S. I.	155, 158, 422, 435
Jones, Ensign, N. Y. Vols.	447
Jones, Lieut., N. Y. Vols.	194
Jones, Major Roger, Assistant Adjutant-General.	41, 98, 100, 151, 195, 213, 253, 340, 363, 463, 467.
Jones, John.	326
Jones, Rev'd David.	109

K.

Kaye, Lieut., 103d Regt.	145, 149
Kelly, Ensign, 19th U. S. I.	155
Kean, Adjutant, N. Y. Vols.	379
Kearsley, Lieut., 4th U. S. Rifles.	151
Keefer, Peter.	378
Kellogg, Major S., N. Y. Vols.	209, 232
Kelly, Children of John.	325

## K—Continued.

	Page.
Kemble, Lieut., Glengarry Light Infantry.....	300, 301
Kempt, Major-General J.....	173, 175, 185, 190, 199, 226, 230, 241, 244, 267, 441
Kendrick, John.....	319
Keniston, Corporal.....	338
Kennedy, Capt., N. Y. Vols.....	209
Kennedy, Capt., U. S. Navy.....	38, 110, 114, 136
Kennedy, Ensign, 4th Lincoln Militia.....	95
Kennedy, Asst. Surgeon.....	455
Kent Volunteers.....	15
Kentuckians.....	287, 308, 310, 312, 316, 462
Kentucky.....	328, 329
Kentucky Riflemen.....	296, 378
Keps, Lieut., 22d U. S. I.....	423
Kerby, Major James, Incorporated Militia.....	91, 133, 326
Kerr, Dr.....	325
Kerr, Lieut. R., Glengarry Light Infantry.....	95
Kettle, Jeremiah.....	326
Ketchum, Capt., 25th U. S. I.....	45, 99, 424, 475, 478
King, Capt., 22d U. S. I.....	43
Kingston... 9, 17, 24, 36, 57, 64, 77, 86, 96, 106, 107, 116, 117, 126, 127, 128, 130, 147, 172, 173, 174, 175, 177, 179, 180, 181, 182, 185, 186, 190, 191, 196, 198, 226, 231, 236, 237, 239, 243, 244, 245, 257, 264, 267, 268, 277, 283, 289, 301, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 315, 323, 412, 441, 445, 456, 458, 466.	
Kingston, Adjutant, 100th Regt.....	33
Kinneard, Lieut., U. S. Artillery.....	352
Kinney, Capt., 25th U. S. I.....	421, 425, 480
Kirby, Lieut., U. S. Artillery.....	158, 213
Kirkpatrick, Ensign, 2d Lincoln Militia.....	33
Kirnan, Quartermaster, 8th Regt.....	95
Knapp, Capt., N. Y. Vols.....	194, 209, 215, 222, 404, 446, 447
Knox, John.....	326

## L.

La Colle.....	280
Lady of the Lake, Ship of War.....	237
Lady Prevost, Ship of War.....	114
Lake Road.....	225, 238, 255
Lamb, Lieut., 23rd U. S. I.....	423
La Motte, Mr.....	193
Lamont, Lieut., Royal Scots.....	95
Landen, Edward.....	330
Langford, Ensign C., 82nd Regt.....	220
Langhorne, Lieut., 103rd Regt.....	95
La Pierc, Lieut., Regt De Watteville.....	220
Latham, Lieut., 89th Regt.....	95
Lathom Lieut., 82nd Regt.....	220
Larned, Lieut., 21st U. S. I.....	157, 159, 334, 435
Lawe, George.....	325
Lawrence, Major, N. Y. Militia.....	209
Lawrence, George.....	295
Leavenworth, Major H., 9th U. S. I.....	40, 45, 46, 80, 335, 422, 424, 474, 477, 480
Le Breton, Lieut.....	67, 90, 95
Le Couteur, Col. H.....	168
Le Couteur, Col. J.....	168, 169
Lee, Major Thos., Jr.....	209, 283, 433
Lee, Lieut.....	212
Lee, Hosker.....	295

*L—Continued.*

Page.

Lee, Wm.....	295
Lefferty, J. J.....	327
Leonard, Capt. Richard, 104th Regt.....	91, 143, 145, 149
Leopard, Ship of War.....	85
Lester, Henry.....	323, 324
Lewis, Indian Chief.....	311
Lewiston, N. Y.....	10, 17, 25, 66, 72, 88, 97, 106, 110, 171, 234, 241, 254, 335, 409, 442, 443, 466, 467.
Lewiston Heights.....	256
Lincoln, County of.....	12
Lincoln Militia.....	31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 50, 65, 72, 79, 93, 95, 277, 279, 329, 412, 416
Lindsay, Dayton.....	53
Lisle, Major, 19th Light Dragoons.....	32, 35, 50, 91, 93, 206, 277, 301
Livingston, Lieut. John P., 23rd U. S. I.....	213, 350, 351
Lloyd, Lieut., 89th Regt.....	95
London District.....	10, 14, 15, 16, 22, 52, 53, 65, 318, 319, 324, 328, 330
London Gazette.....	453
Long, American Marshal.....	306
Long, Elias.....	318
Long, Mr.....	276
Long Point.....	3, 4, 9, 14, 21, 22, 23, 25, 30, 51, 55, 114, 224, 229, 240, 242, 280, 287, 296, 297, 300, 301, 303, 306, 310, 317, 318, 330, 370, 389, 398, 455, 462.
Long Woods.....	309
Loring, Capt. R. R., 104th Regt.....	90, 95, 430
Loudon, Pa.....	368
Lovell, Hospital Surgeon.....	452
Lowell, Widow.....	327
Lower Sandusky.....	460
Lowry, Lieut., 8th Regt.....	220, 247
Lundy, Thomas.....	326
Lundy's Lane.....	54, 61, 68, 72, 74, 102, 104, 227, 247, 248, 249, 268, 280, 332, 336, 338, 339, 366, 469, 470.
Lush, Major S.....	255
Lutz, Jacob.....	327
Lyon's Creek.....	54, 238, 242, 246, 255, 256, 257, 260, 271, 273, 274, 464, 480
Lynner, Ensign, 103rd Regt.....	96
Lytle, Nicholas.....	332
<b>M.</b>	
Mabee, Simon.....	192, 318, 319
Mabey, Staff Surgeon.....	270
Macklem, James.....	326
Madison County, N. Y.....	405, 406
Madison, Ship of War.....	129
Magnet, Ship of War.....	70, 86, 125, 134, 457
Maguaga.....	424
Malcolm's Mills.....	291, 296, 309, 310, 324
Malden.....	7, 292, 321
Mallory, Major Benajah, Canadian Vols.....	71
Mandeville, David.....	295
Mann, Joseph.....	295
Mann, Nathan.....	330
Mann's Medical History of the War.....	453
Marakle, a Traitor.....	238
Marcle, Major, Canadian Vols.....	209, 447
Markle, A.....	398

<i>M—Continued.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Marlin, Major.....	369
Marlowe, Captain.....	35
Marshall, Captain E., 82nd Regt.....	220
Marston, Captain, 21st U. S. I.....	155, 157, 158, 358, 434
Mason, Lieut. W., 82nd Regt.....	220
Matchedash Bay.....	25, 240, 246, 455, 456
Matchedash River.....	246, 456
Mathews, Thomas.....	332
Matteson, Major A., New York Vols.....	195, 283, 434, 445, 447
Matthewson, Ensign, 8th Regt.....	220
Maule, Major J.....	27, 28, 90, 269
Mead, Benjamin.....	330
Meagher, Lieut., 103rd Regt.....	145, 149
Medcalf, Henry.....	331
Memphramagog, Lake.....	114, 115
Mermet, Adjutant, Regt. DeWatteville.....	220
Merritt, Thomas.....	325
Merritt, J. P., MSS. of.....	397, 398
Merritt, Capt. W. H., Provincial Dragoons.....	96, 397, 398
Michigan Militia.....	311
Michilimackinac.....	25, 193
Middlesex, County of.....	294
Middlesex Militia.....	93
Miles, Lieut., 89th Regt.....	95
Military Artificers.....	71
Militia, Canadian.....	68, 374
Militia, Embodied.....	52
Militia, Essex.....	93
Militia, Incorporated.....	25, 30, 36, 51, 52, 79, 83, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 133, 139, 144, 202, 227, 228, 238, 239, 240, 242, 246, 265, 267, 268.
Militia, Kent.....	93
Militia, 1st Lincoln.....	187, 416
Militia, 2d Lincoln.....	31, 32, 33, 36, 50, 65, 72, 79, 93, 95, 279, 329, 412
Militia, 4th Lincoln.....	95, 329
Militia, 5th Lincoln.....	65, 277, 412, 416
Militia, Michigan.....	311
Militia, Middlesex.....	93
Militia, New York.....	207, 225, 264, 450, 454
Militia, Norfolk.....	93, 278, 287, 291, 303
Militia, Oxford.....	93, 291, 314
Militia, Sedentary.....	86, 93, 246, 265
Militia, 2nd York.....	93, 95, 296
Miller, Col. James, 21st U. S. I.....	98, 100, 104, 105, 107, 111, 344, 345, 346, 350, 355, 419, 423, 468, 469, 479.
Miller, Col. John, 17th U. S. I.....	292, 320
Miller, Brig. Gen. James.....	208, 211, 212, 215, 228, 442, 454
Miller's (Andrew) House.....	227
Miller's House (near Buffalo).....	451
Miller's Road.....	228
Misener's House.....	260
Missassauga Point.....	6
Mitchell, Ephraim C.....	313
Mitchell, John.....	331
Mittelholzer, Capt., Regt. DeWatteville.....	220
Mohawk Indians.....	9, 291
Mohawk, Ship of War.....	37, 60, 78, 129
Moorson, Lieut., 104th Regt.....	90, 93, 95, 267

*M.—Continued.*

Page.

Monroe, Hon. James.....	436
Montgomery, Lieut., 103d Regt.....	96
Montreal. 36, 49, 50, 137, 148, 170, 172, 173, 176, 177, 178, 180, 189, 193, 236, 239, 294, 315, 321, 401, 402, 441, 455, 458, 461, 462.	
Montreal, Ship of War.....	129, 244, 305, 457
Montross, Silas.....	331
Moraviantown.....	287, 309, 454, 462
Morgan, Major Ludowick, 1st U. S. Rifles.....	78, 109, 121, 122, 137, 420, 435, 466
Morningstar, Mr.....	327
Morrison, Lt. Col. J. W., 89th Regt. 34, 36, 57, 65, 76, 77, 82, 84, 87, 88, 91, 93 95, 334.	
Muckle, John.....	193
Muir, Major A. C., 41st Regt.....	291, 296, 310, 455
Muirhead, Mr.....	112, 329
Muirhead, Dr.....	325
Munro, John.....	325
Murdock, Capt., 25th U. S. I.....	480
Mure, Mr.....	132
Murray, Lieut., 100th Regt.....	145, 149
Murphy, Lieut., 100th Regt.....	143
Myers, Lieut. Col. Christopher.....	144, 205, 257, 258, 260, 262, 263, 281

**Mc.**

McArthur, Brig. Gen. D....	285, 287, 299, 307, 308, 312, 313, 314, 316, 320, 321, 324, 462.
McBride, Mrs.....	326
McBurney, Lieut. Col., N. Y. Vols.....	208, 209, 438
McCully, Sailing Master, U. S. Navy.....	136, 137
McCardy, Richard.....	332
McChain, Lieut., 25th U. S. I.....	480
McClay, Quartermaster John, Pa. Vols.....	376, 418, 423
McClelland, Robert, Pa. Vols.....	373
McCloskey, Capt. J.....	292
McClure, General George, N. Y. Militia.....	438, 442
McConnelshurg, Pa.....	369
McDonald, Capt., Incorporated Militia.....	95
McDonald, Capt., 19th U. S. I.....	343, 345, 349, 355
McDonald, Ensign, 8th Regt.....	95
McDonald, Ensign, Incorporated Militia.....	95
McDonald, Lieut., Royal Scots.....	33
McDonald, Lieut., 19th U. S. I.....	33, 41, 419
McDonald, Sailing Master J. E., U. S. Navy.....	114
McDonnell, Ensign, 1st Lincoln Militia.....	33
McDonough, Lieut., U. S. Artillery.....	150, 154, 155, 156
McDouall, Lieut. Col. Robert, Glengarry Light Infantry.....	190, 209, 212
McDougall, Lieut., Incorporated Militia.....	95
MacEwen, Lieut., Royal Scots.....	112, 113
MacEwen, Mrs.....	113
McFarland, Lieut., U. S. Rifles.....	122
McFarland, Major, 23d U. S. I.....	73, 100, 106, 155, 345, 420, 421, 425
McFarlane, John.....	325
McFarlane's House.....	75, 77, 78, 80, 81, 86
McGlassin, Quartermaster, 25th U. S. I.....	422
McGregor, Lieut., Kent Rangers.....	23
McIntire, Daniel.....	331
McIntire, Samuel.....	331
McIntosh, Lieut., U. S. Rifles.....	122, 428

<i>Mc—Continued.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
McKay, John.....	325
McKee, Alexander.....	325
McKee & McEwen.....	325
McKenney, Cornet An.s, Provincial Dragoons.....	186
McKenzie, Sailing Master.....	60
MacKonochie, Capt., Royal Artillery.....	32, 49, 50, 92, 96
McLauchlan, Capt., Royal Artillery.....	67, 92, 93, 95
McLaughlin, Ensign, 104th Regt.....	145, 149
McLean, Capt., Incorporated Militia.....	96
McLellan, Martin.....	324
McLelland, Wm., Pa. Vols.....	368
MacMahon, Lieut.....	166, 168
MacMahon, John, Royal Scots.....	269, 270
MacMillan, Capt., Glengarry Light Infantry.....	261, 262
MacMillan, John, 2d Lincoln Militia.....	279
MacMullen, Alexander, Pa. Vols.....	368
MacMullen, MSS. of W. H.....	379
McNabb, Colin.....	325
McNair, Col., 90th Regt.....	269
McNair, Lieut., 8th Regt.....	220
McNeil, Major, 11th U. S. I. 40, 45, 46, 106, 336, 337, 356, 357, 423, 424, 474, 475	295
McNeil, Archibald.....	295
McNeil, Neil.....	295
McQueen, Daniel.....	350
McRea, Major, U. S. Engineers.. 100, 105, 153, 159, 213, 348, 467, 468, 471, 477, 480.	

## N.

Nancy, Schooner.....	193
Nash, Ensign, 103d Regt.....	145, 149
Navy Island.....	25
Neely, Ensign, 21st U. S. I.....	214, 435
Neil, Garrett.....	53
Nelles, Capt. H., 4th Lincoln Militia.....	95
Nesfield, Lieut., 89th Regt.....	206
Netley, Ship of War.....	87, 134, 135, 137, 197, 251
Neville, James.....	295
Newark.....	327, 328, 401
Newport, Ky.....	460
New York, City of.....	123, 199, 409
New York, Legislature of.....	283
New York, Militia.....	207, 225, 284, 450, 454
New York, State of.....	10, 180, 372, 391, 431, 436, 438
Niagara County.....	8, 438
Niagara, District of.....	3, 9, 10, 12, 53, 60, 72, 82, 177, 178, 237, 329
Niagara Falls. 72, 87, 92, 96, 105, 106, 107, 110, 111, 115, 156, 172, 173, 228, 229, 235, 238, 240, 241, 246, 248, 249, 252, 257, 262, 263, 265, 268, 270, 277, 279, 281, 288, 297, 383, 335, 343, 356, 358, 374, 376, 391, 420, 423, 429, 442, 459, 467.	
Niagara Frontier..... 17, 147, 170, 174, 176, 189, 245, 301, 315, 316, 317, 322, 324, 380, 386, 391, 400, 429, 436, 439, 448, 452, 481.	
Niagara Guides.....	459
Niagara Line.....	180
Niagara River. 7, 26, 31, 38, 47, 55, 60, 64, 72, 97, 110, 123, 125, 126, 127, 129, 134, 135, 152, 159, 172, 176, 178, 192, 200, 232, 241, 242, 256, 274, 283, 289, 298, 305, 335, 344, 353, 359, 360, 361, 362, 364, 372, 374, 410, 412, 417, 428, 437, 459.	

## N—Continued.

## Page

Niagara Road.....	327, 335, 336, 339, 473, 479
Niagara, Ship of War.....	304, 305, 315, 457
Niagara, Town of.....	34, 85, 86, 87, 181, 182, 197, 200, 210, 243, 244, 245, 260, 263, 264, 266, 322, 324, 326, 456, 457, 458, 462.
Nichol, Lieut.-Col. Robert.....	9, 11, 16, 119, 186, 330, 358, 432
Nichol, George.....	314, 323, 324
Nicholas, Lieut.-Col., 1st U. S. I.....	75, 98, 139, 348, 375, 419, 444, 468, 469
Niles Register.....	47, 63, 74, 106, 108, 109, 110, 113, 123, 220, 221, 222, 445
Nine Mile Creek.....	462
Nine Mile Point.....	237
Noel, Lieut., 8th Regt.....	95, 145, 148
Noon, Major D.....	388, 391, 394, 401, 404
Norfolk, County of.....	12, 13, 313, 330
North Mountain.....	369
Northern Sentinel.....	110
Norton, Capt. John.....	8, 36, 70, 71, 277, 280, 463
Norton, Heman.....	440
Nottawasaga.....	193
Nova Scotia.....	327
Nova Scotia, Legislature of.....	330

## O.

Odell, Capt. A. W., 23rd U. S. I.....	354, 355, 422
O'Fling, Ensign, 23rd U. S. I.....	212, 214
O'Fling, Lieut., N. Y. Vols.....	423
Ogdensburg, N. Y.....	11
Ogilvie, Lieut.-Col. James, 8th Regt.....	36, 206, 269
Ohio Militia.....	308, 310
Ohio, Ship of War.....	75, 135, 136, 137
Ohio, State of.....	75
O'Keefe, Capt., 41st Regt.....	143
Olds, Isaac.....	330
O'Malley, Staff-Surgeon.....	144
Oneida Indians.....	9, 14, 389, 406, 433
Oneida, Village of.....	308, 402, 403, 406
Oneida, Ship of War.....	127
Onondaga.....	8, 102, 306, 402, 403, 419, 448
Onondaga County.....	14
Onondaga Indians.....	9, 71, 389, 406, 432, 448
Ontario.....	8
Ontario County, N. Y.....	63, 448
Ontario Lake.....	9, 20, 26, 33, 64, 68, 87, 96, 128, 130, 134, 181, 182, 189, 191, 197, 200, 230, 239, 244, 245, 256, 259, 260, 308, 316, 360, 367, 336, 361, 364, 409, 444, 456, 464.
O'Reilly, Lieut.....	67
Ordean, Charles.....	137
Orne, A. Z., Major.....	42, 101, 414
Orrfield, Lieut., 2nd York Militia.....	95
Oswego, Fort.....	24
Oswego Village.....	10
Otsego.....	8
Onse River.....	278
Overholser, Jacob.....	53
Oxford.....	4, 13, 193, 291, 307, 309, 312, 314, 323, 397
Oxford Militia.....	91, 291, 314, 323, 328

	<i>Page.</i>
Page, Ensign, U. S. Rifles.....	122
Page, Jesse.....	332
Palmer, Mr.....	193
Palmer's House.....	116, 227
Palmyra, N. Y.....	63, 394
Parks, Augustus.....	318
Parker, Capt. N. Y. Militia.....	209, 447
Parker, Lieut. N. Y. Militia.....	209
Parker, D., A. & I. General.....	350
Parker, John.....	332
Parrish, Jasper.....	7, 232, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 398, 401, 402, 403, 407, 419, 426, 433, 438.
Parry, Lieut. Col. T. L. J., 103d Regt.....	14, 15, 16, 21, 30, 51, 55, 81, 91, 93, 275, 276, 277, 278, 287, 296.
Patchin, Lieut., 25th U. S. I.....	43
Patterson, Capt., Canadian Militia.....	21
Patterson, Lieut., 19th U. S. I.....	151
Patterson, Leslie.....	331
Patterson's Creek.....	15, 16
Patteson, Capt. R. D., 6th Regt.....	195, 197, 220
Patton, Lieut., Pa. Vols.....	376
Patuxent River.....	436
Payne, Capt., Sappers and Miners.....	267, 280, 289, 306
Peacock, George, Jr.....	53
Pearson, Lieut.-Col. Thomas.....	25, 31, 32, 35, 50, 54, 56, 81, 83, 92, 93, 95, 144, 169, 202, 203, 204, 205, 220.
Pease, Margaret.....	295
Peli, Joshua.....	192
Pellichody, Lieut., Regt. DeWatteville.....	220
Penetanguishene.....	315
Pennsylvania, State of.....	8, 242
Pennsylvania Volunteers.....	26, 39, 100, 102, 152, 153, 155, 162, 360, 362, 364, 368, 379, 410, 411, 418, 421, 423, 432, 434, 473.
Pentland, Capt., 22d U. S. I.....	111, 336, 342, 355, 422, 478
Perry, Commodore O. H.....	369
Perry, Lieut., 9th U. S. I.....	355, 423
Petit, Isaac.....	53
Pettit, Lieut. and Adjt.....	145, 149
Phair, Jarvis.....	332
Phelps, Davenport.....	326
Phelps, Elijah.....	328
Phelps, Quartermaster, N. Y. Militia.....	405
Philadelphia, Pa.....	115, 123, 299, 334
Philadelphia Democratic Press.....	109
Phillips, Joseph.....	332
Phillott, Major, Royal Artillery.....	57, 144, 206, 231
Philpot, Lieut., Royal Engineers.....	67, 133, 144
Philpot, John.....	331
Piatt, Major John H.....	292
Pierce, Colonel, 16th U. S. I.....	271, 273
Pierce, Lieut., 89th Regt.....	95
Pigeon Island.....	59, 237
Pigott, Lieut., 82nd Regt.....	220
Pinckney, Col., 5th U. S. I.....	271, 273
Pittsburg, Pa.....	355, 369
Pittsfield, Mass.....	222
Pittsfield (Mass.) Sun.....	109

*P—Continued.**Page.*

Plattsburgh.....	115, 173, 237, 457.
Platow's House.....	195.
Poe, Adjutant Thomas, Pa. Vols.....	371, 376, 377, 418, 421, 425.
Point Abino.....	3.
Point au Plait.....	292.
Point aux Pins.....	7.
Point Frederick.....	57.
Pollard, Captain, Seneca Chief.....	363.
Porcupine, Ship of War.....	75, 135, 137, 371.
Porter, Major-General Peter B.....	7, 13, 26, 34, 39, 41, 43, 48, 49, 63, 68, 74, 75, 80, 87, 98, 99, 100, 101, 103, 110, 152, 154, 155, 162, 192, 197, 198, 207, 208, 211, 212, 213, 215, 221, 222, 223, 225, 241, 253, 254, 282, 283, 285, 338, 339, 341, 343, 348, 349, 355, 358, 373, 374, 375, 378, 379, 380, 382, 383, 384, 386, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 394, 396, 398, 399, 400, 402, 405, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 410, 411, 413, 414, 417, 419, 423, 424, 425, 426, 431, 433, 434, 436, 437, 438, 439, 441, 442, 443, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 453, 454, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 475, 476, 477.
Porter, Hon. P. A., MSS. of.....	232, 253, 282, 284, 368, 381, 382, 384, 385, 386, 388, 389, 390, 391, 393, 394, 396, 397, 399, 400, 401, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 409, 411, 412, 413, 414, 419, 425, 427, 430, 431, 432, 433, 441, 441, 442, 444, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451.
Portlock, Lieut., Royal Engineers.....	133.
Port Talbot.....	7, 15, 21, 79, 224, 293, 294, 331.
Powell, Capt. Thomas, Glengarry Light Infantry.....	57, 138, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 195, 196, 206, 238, 261.
Powell, Sergeant, 19th Light Dragoons.....	143, 146, 195.
Powell, Grant.....	293, 322.
Powell, John.....	326.
Powell, Hon. Wm. Dummer.....	293, 322.
Powers, Major-General.....	171.
Powers, Thomas.....	325.
Pratt, Lieut., 21st U. S. I.....	440.
Prescott.....	96.
President, Ship of War.....	128.
Presqu' Isle.....	7, 14, 17, 24, 25, 26, 186, 199, 230, 409.
Prestman, Brigade-Major.....	272, 273.
Prevost, Sir George.....	7, 8, 11, 15, 16, 20, 21, 24, 25, 33, 34, 54, 55, 57, 59, 60, 85, 87, 115, 116, 124, 132, 134, 141, 146, 170, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 180, 183, 186, 188, 189, 190, 195, 198, 200, 201, 204, 225, 228, 229, 235, 236, 238, 240, 241, 243, 244, 245, 249, 250, 251, 252, 257, 259, 263, 265, 276, 277, 279, 288, 315, 391, 401, 402, 414, 415, 453, 454, 455, 456, 458, 461, 462.
Prince Regent, H. R. H.....	8, 92, 172, 251, 316, 443.
Prince Regent, Ship of War.....	13, 24, 37, 129, 457.
Princess Charlotte, Ship of War.....	24, 129, 315, 457.
Proctor, Major, 82d Regt.....	202, 204, 205, 260, 261, 262.
Prophet, Indian Chief.....	8.
Put-in-Bay.....	369.
Pultneyville.....	394, 395.
Pultney.....	10, 396.

	<i>Page.</i>
Quebec.....	132, 137, 169, 171, 172, 173, 180, 182, 189, 197
Queenston..	36, 56, 69, 72, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 81, 88, 97, 128, 150, 170, 176, 227, 231, 241, 243, 244, 247, 248, 249, 335, 336, 356, 367, 374, 416, 443, 459, 470, 477.
Queenston Heights...	6, 69, 86, 106, 108, 171, 238, 343, 354, 360, 413, 465, 466, 467
Queenston Road.....	82, 88, 130, 170, 176, 250, 266, 280, 323, 327, 353, 468, 469
Quick, John .....	352
Quinte, Bay of.....	294

**R.**

Radcliffe, Lieut. C., Royal Navy.....	86, 135, 136, 145
Rainsford, Capt., 104th Regt.....	229
Ralph, Mr.....	294
Ramey, Henry.....	295
Ramsay, Capt., 1st U. S. Rifles.....	214, 454
Randolph, Lieut. E. B., 20th U. S. I.....	44, 47, 101
Rangers, Essex.....	93
Rangers, Kent.....	93
Rangers, Norfolk.....	93
Rangers, Oxford.....	93
Rangers, United States.....	308
Rapelje, Norfolk Militia.....	193
Rapelje, Abrm.....	330
Rapelje, George.....	295
Rapelje, Jeremiah.....	295
Rea, Ensign, 100th Regt.....	33
Read, Capt., 25th U. S. I.....	43
Red House.....	28
Red Jacket, Seneca Chief.....	14, 358, 363, 367, 368, 369, 390
Redmond, Lieut., 89th Regt.....	95
Ree's House, Major.....	299
Regiment, 1st Royal Scots..	16, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 42, 48, 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, 58, 67, 71, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 91, 94, 95, 113, 131, 133, 139, 142, 145, 147, 148, 149, 167, 171, 200, 202, 203, 204, 205, 219, 220, 227, 232, 238, 242, 264, 265, 267, 269, 270, 459, 470.
Regiment, 3rd Buffs.....	171
Regiment, 5th Foot.....	171
Regiment, 6th Foot..	34, 57, 60, 126, 151, 171, 172, 175, 179, 183, 184, 186, 188, 189, 190, 195, 197, 203, 204, 205, 206, 214, 219, 220, 227, 228, 240, 242, 258, 263, 265, 268, 280, 458, 459.
Regiment, 8th or Kings..	25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 42, 43, 50, 51, 52, 62, 67, 71, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 125, 131, 138, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 167, 170, 171, 200, 202, 203, 205, 206, 219, 220, 226, 227, 243, 247, 249, 264, 265, 267, 268, 271, 431, 459, 460.
Regiment, 9th Foot.....	277, 458
Regiment, 16th Foot.....	171
Regiment, 27th Foot.....	171
Regiment, 37th Foot.....	277, 280, 297, 301, 307, 441, 458, 459, 462
Regiment, 41st Foot..	16, 25, 30, 51, 67, 71, 84, 88, 89, 91, 92, 94, 115, 116, 120, 122, 125, 138, 142, 143, 145, 147, 149, 170, 171, 200, 202, 227, 229, 243, 248, 249, 264, 265, 267, 268, 285, 289, 290, 291, 300, 315, 455, 459, 460, 461.
Regiment, 58th Foot.....	171
Regiment, 70th Foot.....	171

	<i>R—Continued.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Regiment, 82nd Foot..	34, 57, 59, 60, 83, 107, 134, 147, 151, 171, 175, 179, 183, 186, 188, 202, 203, 204, 205, 214, 219, 220, 227, 228, 238, 242, 257, 258, 260, 261, 262, 265, 268, 271, 280, 458, 459.	
Regiment, 89th Foot..	30, 36, 52, 57, 59, 66, 76, 77, 82, 84, 85, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 115, 118, 131, 133, 138, 142, 143, 144, 146, 147, 149, 169, 171, 172, 174, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 219, 227, 243, 258, 264, 265, 267, 268, 271, 431, 459, 460.	
Regiment, 90th Foot..	144, 147, 171, 175, 185, 190, 197, 244, 248, 252, 253, 259, 260, 264, 265, 266, 268, 269, 277, 280, 456, 457, 459.	
Regiment, 97th Foot..	147, 171, 175, 196, 199, 200, 202, 226, 227, 228, 238, 242, 265, 268, 453, 459.	
Regiment, 100th Foot, (Prince Regent's Own) ..	25, 28, 29, 31, 33, 34, 42, 50, 57, 58, 71, 88, 108, 115, 118, 138, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 149, 171, 200, 243, 257, 258, 260, 262, 264, 265, 267, 268, 269, 271, 315, 459, 460.	
Regiment, 103d Foot..	14, 15, 16, 21, 23, 27, 29, 30, 36, 51, 52, 59, 61, 65, 89, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 113, 138, 143, 145, 147, 148, 149, 161, 167, 168, 169, 171, 184, 227, 254, 257, 258, 275, 278, 287, 288, 296, 301, 306, 315, 316, 459, 460, 462.	
Regiment, 104th Foot..	34, 36, 57, 77, 82, 84, 85, 89, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 108, 138, 142, 143, 145, 148, 149, 171, 227, 229, 243, 248, 258, 259, 262, 267, 271.	
Regiment, Canadian Fencible.....	59, 147, 171, 226	
Regiment De Watteville..	57, 59, 60, 83, 117, 123, 125, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 152, 167, 171, 172, 175, 186, 200, 202, 203, 205, 206, 219, 220, 226, 227, 243, 249, 264, 265, 267, 268, 431, 453, 459.	
Regiment, Glengarry Light Infantry.	65, 81, 88, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 107, 117, 123, 133, 139, 143, 144, 171, 195, 197, 202, 204, 205, 219, 227, 228, 240, 242, 252, 257, 260, 261, 262, 265, 267, 271, 273, 290, 300, 301, 431, 459, 460.	
Regiment, Nova Scotia Fencible.....	181	
Regiment, Royal Newfoundland .....	30, 52, 455	
Regiment, 1st United States Infantry..	75, 98, 106, 213, 339, 357, 358, 410, 420, 422, 426, 463, 469.	
Regiment, 5th United States Infantry .....	263, 271, 272, 273, 274	
Regiment, 6th United States Infantry .....	191, 238, 338, 339	
Regiment, 9th United States Infantry..	40, 47, 76, 80, 98, 139, 150, 151, 153, 155, 156, 163, 215, 223, 335, 336, 337, 338, 340, 342, 355, 356, 408, 412, 417, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 426, 432, 468, 473, 474, 477, 478, 480, 481.	
Regiment, 11th United States Infantry..	40, 45, 76, 98, 110, 137, 150, 151, 154, 156, 159, 163, 215, 223, 336, 337, 338, 340, 356, 357, 408, 412, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 426, 434, 442, 468, 474, 475, 478, 480.	
Regiment, 12th United States Infantry.....	272	
Regiment, 13th United States Infantry.....	76, 191	
Regiment, 14th United States Infantry.....	263, 271, 272, 273, 274	
Regiment, 15th United States Infantry.....	155, 158, 263, 271, 353	
Regiment, 16th United States Infantry.....	263, 271, 272, 273	
Regiment, 17th United States Infantry.....	98, 215, 254, 312, 469	
Regiment, 19th United States Infantry.	75, 98, 150, 151, 154, 155, 157, 158, 159, 161, 162, 163, 164, 215, 222, 312, 343, 410, 435, 454, 469.	

	<i>R—Continued.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Regiment, 21st United States Infantry	39, 40, 41, 43, 48, 76, 98, 106, 137, 150, 151, 155, 157, 158, 188, 208, 211, 215, 334, 339, 345, 346, 347, 357, 358, 408, 419, 420, 421, 422, 426, 434, 440, 454, 468, 469.	
Regiment, 22nd United States Infantry	40, 75, 76, 98, 99, 150, 151, 154, 156, 163, 164, 336, 337, 338, 340, 342, 356, 408, 412, 420, 422, 423, 424, 426, 468, 474, 478, 480.	
Regiment, 23rd United States Infantry	76, 98, 106, 150, 151, 152, 157, 158, 159, 188, 208, 211, 222, 223, 338, 339, 345, 346, 347, 350, 351, 354, 355, 408, 417, 419, 420, 421, 422, 425, 426, 443, 469.	
Regiment, 25th United States Infantry	40, 45, 76, 98, 188, 336, 338, 339, 340, 347, 351, 408, 412, 420, 421, 422, 424, 426, 442, 468, 469, 473, 475, 477, 479, 480, 481, 482.	
Regiment, 45th United States Infantry		271
Regiment, 1st United States Rifle		214, 253, 435, 443, 454
Regiment, 2nd United States Rifle		424
Regiment, 4th United States Rifle	123, 151, 163, 213, 253, 443, 454	
Regiment, Fenton's Pennsylvania Militia		48, 49
Reynolds, Lieut		27, 28
Riall, Major-General Phineas	7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 42, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 65, 66, 69, 72, 75, 77, 78, 79, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 92, 93, 95, 96, 99, 101, 106, 108, 109, 113, 122, 130, 170, 176, 329, 338, 341, 343, 360, 364, 397, 412, 416, 423, 424, 469, 473, 474, 475, 476, 478, 479.	
Richelieu Frontier		172
Richards, Guy		318, 319
Richardson, Capt., N. Y. Militia		209, 448
Richardson, a Pilot		305
Richmond Enquirer		108
Riddle, Lieut., 15th U. S. I	155, 158, 209, 210, 213, 215, 353, 416, 435	
Ridgeley, Capt., United States Navy		127
Ridge Road		10, 233, 241, 409
Right Division		19, 20
Ripley, Brig.-Gen. E. W.	34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 48, 68, 80, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 104, 106, 110, 154, 155, 156, 195, 211, 212, 213, 214, 222, 223, 338, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 360, 361, 365, 374, 408, 420, 424, 434, 445, 447, 453, 454, 463, 464, 465, 468, 469, 470, 472, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481.	
Riselay, Christian		326
Ritchie, Capt., U. S. Artillery	44, 68, 100, 138, 109, 113, 338, 408, 421, 425, 468	
Roach, T.		136
Roberts, Capt., Pa. Vols		423, 425
Robertson, Col.		259
Robertson, Major		187
Robins, Ensign, Glengarry Light Infantry		96
Robins, John		314
Robinson, Acting-Attorney-General		53, 91, 95
Robinson, Adjutant, N. Y. Militia		209

*R—Continued.**Page.*

Robinson, Capt. Wm., (Brevet Lt.-Col.), King's Regiment and Incorporated Militia.....	25, 36, 91, 92, 93
Robinson, Commissary-General Sir W. H.....	180
Robinson, Major-General.....	267
Robinson, Lieut., U. S. Dragoons.....	282
Robinson, John.....	317, 318
Robinson, John B.....	293, 314, 323
Robinson, Mrs.....	231
Rochester, Capt. W. R., N. Y. Militia.....	388
Rockman, Capt., 2d York Militia.....	95
Rodgers, Major, N. Y. Militia.....	394
Rogers, Alexander.....	325
Rogers, James.....	325
Romilly, Capt. Samuel, Royal Engineers.....	133, 191, 281, 282
Rondeau.....	292
Roosevelt, Lieut.....	194, 446, 447
Ropes, Capt., 21st U. S. I.....	155, 158, 434
Rose, Stanley, a Deserter.....	80
Ross, Capt., 21st U. S. I.....	157
Ross, Alexander.....	295
Ross, Daniel.....	331
Rowan, Capt., Royal Scots.....	145, 149
Rowe, Capt. John, 2d Lincoln Militia.....	33
Ryan, Lieut., 1st U. S. Rifles.....	121, 122
Ryerse, Sarah.....	331
Ryerse's Mills.....	15, 16, 331
Ryerson, Col., Norfolk Militia.....	276
Ruttan, Lieut., Incorporated Militia.....	95
Rutland, Lieut., U. S. Rangers.....	311
Rutledge, Lieut. J., Royal Scots.....	220

**S.**

Sabine, Capt., Royal Artillery.....	144, 206
Sackett's Harbor.....	7, 12, 18, 19, 20, 24, 37, 55, 56, 60, 87, 102, 109, 110, 127, 128, 129, 141, 171, 172, 173, 174, 176, 177, 181, 198, 199, 230, 233, 234, 237, 240, 241, 244, 245, 256, 259, 275, 277, 279, 284, 308, 334, 357, 390, 391, 405, 409, 429, 441, 444, 455, 456, 457, 458, 466, 481.
Sadleir, Capt., 8th Regt.....	62
Saganau.....	287, 303
Sage, Mr.....	409
Salmon, Major George C., Norfolk Militia.....	275, 276, 303, 318, 319, 320
Salt Battery.....	79, 82
Sanderson, Lieut., 89th Regt.....	95
Sandusky, Ohio.....	460, 461
Sandwich.....	309
Sandy Creek, N. Y.....	24, 37
Sangersfield, N. Y.....	404
Sappers and Miners.....	51, 306
Satterlee, Capt., N. Y. Vols.....	194
Satterlee, Lieut.-Col.....	446
Saunders, Ensign, 89th Regt.....	95
Saunders, John.....	326
Sawyer, Lieut. F. A., 11th U. S. I.....	110, 337, 356
Schlosser.....	97, 184, 241, 254, 257, 335, 409, 466, 467, 477
Schumck, Lieut., U. S. Artillery.....	44, 421, 424
Scipio, N. Y.....	10

	<i>S—Continued.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Scotch Settlement.....		309
Scott, Chief Justice Thomas.....	53, 293, 294, 314, 315, 322, 323, 324	
Scott, Col. Hercules, 103d Regt.....	21, 23, 28, 30, 52, 55, 59, 61, 65, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 113, 133, 138, 139, 142, 143, 145, 147, 148, 151, 153, 155, 161, 162, 167, 168, 169.	
Scott, James.....		169, 170
Scott, Brig.-Gen. Winfield S.....	18, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 55, 77, 80, 86, 90, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 106, 107, 108, 111, 112, 113, 152, 156, 166, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 352, 354, 355, 356, 360, 361, 362, 364, 365, 366, 374, 377, 400, 408, 411, 412, 420, 422, 424, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 470, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480.	
Sears, James.....		332
Secord, Major David, 2nd Lincoln Militia.....	58, 72, 327, 328	
Secord, Daniel.....		325, 327
Secord, John.....		325
Secord, Widow.....		327
Seneca, N. Y.....		8
Seneca County, N. Y.....		438
Seneca Indians.....	9, 378, 389, 433	
Seneca Lake.....		399
Seymour, Lieut., 25th U. S. I.....		476, 478
Shaff, Wm.....		295
Shaylor, Adjt., 25th U. S. I.....		422, 480
Shaw, Lieut., 1st U. S. I.....		357
Shawanese Indians.....		291
Sheaffe, Major-General Sir R. H.....		329
Sherrard, Capt., 100th Regt.....		33, 36
Shipman's.....		82
Shippey, Thomas.....		313
Shors, Capt., 104th Regt.....		143
Shore, Lieut., 1st U. S. I.....		213
Short Hills.....		61
Shortridge, Lieut. and Adjt., 1st U. S. Rifles.....		122, 213
Sidling Hill, Pa.....		369
Simcoe Lake.....		246, 456
Simmonds, Benjamin.....		53
Simons, Major, 2nd York Militia.....		95
Sinclair, Capt., U. S. Navy.....		307
Six Nations.....	7, 8, 39, 70, 360, 386, 387, 391, 392, 393	
Skinner, Lieut., U. S. Navy.....		237
Sleigh, Capt., 100th Regt.....		33, 36
Slingerland, Garrett.....		325
Smelt, Major Wm., 103d Regt.....	27, 28, 91, 143, 145, 149, 169, 277, 278, 287, 291, 295, 296, 297, 299, 300, 301, 306.	
Smith, Capt., 6th Regt.....		247
Smith, Lieut. and Brigade-Major J. D., 6th U. S. I.....	40, 47, 100, 106, 333, 422, 424.	
Smith, Lieut., 2d York Militia.....		95
Smith, Lieut., 1st U. S. Rifles.....		121, 122
Smith, Lieut., 1st Lincoln Militia.....		416
Smith, Brig.-General.....		307
Smith, Garrett.....		295
Smith, Mr.....		291
Snake Hill.....	116, 125, 140, 141, 142, 144, 146, 302, 434	

Snake Island	237
Snelling, Colonel J.	213, 214, 272, 273
Snyder, Hon. Simon	368
Sodus, N. Y.	10, 386, 465
Somers, Ship of War	135, 136, 137
Soverain's Mills	299
Sovereign, Leonard	313
Sovereign, Morris	313
Sparrow, Major	258, 261, 262, 269
Spencer, Capt. A.	41, 100, 104, 344, 354, 385, 421, 425, 430, 463, 469, 470, 471
Spencer, J. C.	429
Splitlog, Indian Chief	16
Springer, Capt. Daniel	328
Spinner, Capt., 89th Regt.	95
Spurr, Lieut., U. S. Rifles	272
Squaw Island	118, 119, 121, 232, 438
Stake, Capt. Jacob	368
Stamford	242, 247, 279, 280, 327
Stanton, Brigade-Major P., N. Y. Vols.	418, 423, 425
Star, Brig of War	58, 59, 82, 85, 86, 134, 136, 315, 425, 457
Staten Island	396
St. Clair Lake	292, 308
St. Clair River	287, 308, 309
St. Davids	64, 68, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 176, 231, 327, 328, 416
Steele, Mathias	16, 17, 330
Stenger, Lieut., Regt. De Watteville	220
Steuben Co., N. Y.	8, 388, 438
Stevens, Aaron	53
Stevens, Lieut., Royal Marine Artillery	133, 265
Stevenson, Lieut., Royal Navy	145, 149
Stevenson, Lieut., 11th U. S. I.	112, 214
Stewart, Colonel, Royal Scots	9, 30, 133
Stewart, Major	238
Stewart, Capt., Royal Scots	91
St. John, Widow	379
St. Lawrence River	114, 189, 445
St. Lawrence, Ship of War	243, 245, 246, 263, 304, 456, 457
Stockbridge Indians	406
Stockwell, John	321
Stone, Capt., N. Y. Vols.	384, 399
Stone, Col. Isaac W., N. Y. Vols.	72, 73, 74, 75, 76
Stone, W. L.	358
Stony Island	468
Story, Mary	332
Story, Walter	332
Stovin, Major-General	175, 190, 191, 202, 203, 205, 223, 229, 248, 250, 259, 264, 265, 267, 269, 270, 280, 281, 300, 301, 315, 441, 454, 314, 322, 323
Strachan, Revd. Dr. John	314, 322, 323
Strawberry Island	119
Street, Lieut., 89th Regt.	95
Street, Samuel	411
Street's Creek	35, 88, 113, 254, 255, 360, 361, 366, 363, 364, 365, 473, 474
Street's Grove	227, 242, 252, 257
Street's House	33, 54, 265, 464, 473
Street's Mills	72, 89, 112, 177
St. Regis	114
Stuart, Mrs.	325

<i>S—Continued.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
Sturges, Lieut., 23d U. S. I. ....		423
Sugar Loaf Hill.....		317
Superior, Ship of War. ....	20, 21, 37, 126, 128, 129, 236,	237
Swagatchee, N. Y. ....		11
Swartwout, General .....		286
Swayne, Ensign, 8th Regt.....		95
Swayze, Isaac.....		324, 323
Swick, Capt., N. Y. Militia .....		448
Swift, Colonel, N. Y. Vols.....	8, 26, 69, 97, 103, 110, 417, 431,	466
Swift, Brig.-Gen. John .....	62, 63, 64, 382, 383, 394, 398, 405, 465,	476
Syph, Ship of War.....		126, 127
Syrington, John.....		325
<b>T.</b>		
Talbot, Lieut.-Col. Thos. .7, 14, 15, 21, 22, 188, 224, 276, 290, 293, 294, 295, 301,	306, 315, 317, 318, 320, 330, 331, 332.	
Talbot Road.....	287, 293, 294, 297, 303, 306, 310, 311, 462	323
Talbot Settlement .....		323
Tappan, Lieut. Samuel, 23d U. S. I. ....		353, 354, 423
Taylor, Lieut., 89th Regt. ....		95
Taylor, Major, 6th Regt.....		202, 204, 205
Taylor, Samuel.....		137
Teesdale's Mills .....		276
Tehoopcaw.....		312
Ten Mile Creek.....	79, 91, 83, 125, 343	343
Tennessee .....		123, 307
Thames River.....	277, 287, 292, 307, 309, 310, 311, 312, 321, 462	462
Thomas, Ensign, 21st U. S. I. ....		155, 158, 194, 422, 435
Thomas, Lieut., 16th U. S. I. ....		272
Thomas, Widow .....		275
Thompson, Adjutant, 2d Lincoln Militia.....		95
Thompson, Elizabeth .....		325
Thompson, Ensign, 11th U. S. I. ....		112, 422
Thompson, Lieut.....		356
Thompson, Quartermaster, Incorporated Militia.....		96
Thompson, Samuel.....		326
Thompson's House.....		231
Tigress, Ship of War .....		75
Tillotson, General, N. Y. Militia.....		438
Titt, Major .....		313
Tioga, N. Y. ....		8
Tipton, Lieut., U. S. Rifles .....		122
Tisdale's Mills.....		306
Todd, Major C. S. ....		312
Toles, Wm.....		205
Tomkyns, Lieut., Royal Artillery.....		67, 68, 92
Tompkins, Governor D. D. .13, 26, 74, 101, 103, 192, 200, 224, 380, 383, 386, 394,	396, 399, 431.	
Tonnant, Ship of War .....		436
Tonnevanto.....	25, 254, 400,	426
Torrens, Capt.....	145, 148,	167
Totten, Major.....	234, 282,	280
Touseley, Major Sykes.....		323, 397
Townsend, Township of.....		193
Townshend, Ensign, 41st Regt.....		145, 149
Towson, Capt., U. S. Artillery.....	41, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 152, 153, 155, 156, 157, 166,	166,
	253, 336, 337, 347, 367, 403, 412, 423, 434, 467,	468, 474, 477, 478, 480.

*T—Continued.*

	<i>Page.</i>
Tozer, Capt., N. Y. Vols.....	446, 447
Treat, Capt. Joseph, 21st Regt.....	39, 334, 335
Trimble, Major, 19th U. S. I. 152, 154, 160, 161, 163, 164, 212, 214, 215, 223, 454	454
Trout, Henry.....	326
Trowbridge, Dr.....	158
Trowbridge, Edmund A.....	402, 403
Troy, N. Y.....	348
Tucker, Lieut.-Col. J. G. P., 41st Regt. 25, 51, 66, 68, 69, 71, 75, 77, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 86, 87, 88, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 123, 139, 144, 170, 173, 248, 278.	284
Tucker, Brig.-General, N. Y. Militia.....	284
Turkey Point.....	14, 15, 16, 25, 267, 280, 288, 297, 305, 306, 307
Turner, Dr., 17th U. S. I.....	312
Turner, Lieut., 9th U. S. I.....	421
Turney, Capt. George, 2d Lincoln Militia.....	33
Turquand, Peter, Deputy Commissary-General. 36, 53, 144, 180, 235, 261, 353	353
Tuscarora Indians.....	9, 232
Tweeddale, Lieut.-Col. Marquis of. 32, 33, 34, 36, 50, 243, 247, 250, 260, 261, 262, 271, 474.	261.
Twelve Mile Creek.....	66, 72, 170, 243, 343, 397
Twenty Mile Creek.....	170, 416

**U.**

Underwood, Dute.....	332
Upham, Lieut.-Col.....	212, 213
Utica, N. Y.....	398, 436
Utica Gazette.....	412

**V.**

Valentine, Lieut., 100th Regt.....	33
Van Allen, John.....	318
Vanderlip, Edward.....	326
Vanderlip's House.....	295
Vandervoort, John.....	318
Varnum, J. B.....	112
Vasquez, Lieut., 1st U. S. I.....	422
Vaughan, Lieut., Royal Scots.....	145, 149
Vengeur, Ship of War.....	172
Vermont.....	173, 180
Vermont Historical Collections.....	110
Villatte, Major D., Regt. DeWatteville.....	143, 144, 220
Vincent, Ship of War.....	191, 197
Volunteers, Canadian.....	100, 209, 418, 419
Volunteers, Kent.....	15, 30
Volunteers, New York. 39, 63, 100, 152, 153, 155, 162, 194, 222, 234, 360, 374, 394, 418, 421, 423, 432, 434, 445, 465, 476.	374,
Volunteers, Pennsylvania. 26, 39, 99, 100, 102, 152, 153, 155, 162, 360, 362, 364, 368, 379, 410, 411, 418, 421, 423, 432, 434, 473.	364,
Volunteers, General Porter's.....	265, 338, 339

**W.**

Waddell, Francis.....	326
Wadsworth, General, N. Y. Militia.....	438
Wadsworth, Lieut., 1st U. S. Rifles.....	122, 423
Wagstaff, John.....	326
Walker, Capt., Incorporated Militia.....	144, 206
Walker, a Marauder.....	153
Walker, Peter.....	330

<i>W—Continued.</i>	<i>Page.</i>
Warburton, Lieut.-Col., 41st Regt. ....	125, 201, 248
Ward, Private Wm., 100th Regt. ....	269
Warren, Henry .....	326
Warren, John .....	326
Washburn, Capt., Incorporated Militia. ....	95
Washington, City of .....	38, 199, 260, 264
Watertown, N. Y. ....	405
Watmough, Lieut., U. S. Artillery. ....	150, 151, 154, 155
Watson, Capt., 25th U. S. I. ....	480
Watson, Capt., N. Y. Militia. ....	282
Wattles, Capt., 23rd U. S. I. ....	157, 159, 443
Wattles, James .....	330
Watts, Lieut., Aide-de-Camp .....	40, 46
Watts, Lieut., U. S. Dragoons. ....	213
Wayne, General .....	109
Webster, Ephraim .....	402, 403
Webster, Lieut., 11th U. S. I. ....	112, 423
Webb, Henry, Private, 100th Regt. ....	269
Weeks, Capt., 11th U. S. I. ....	112
Weishuhn's House. ....	249, 258, 259, 263, 264, 266
Welland River .....	360
Wellington, Lord .....	107
Westbrook, a Marauder .....	21, 193, 224, 397
Westchester County, N. Y. ....	396
Western District. ....	53
Western Indians. ....	227, 246, 268
Westminster .....	287
Wharf, Ensign, Incorporated Militia. ....	96
Whillers, Private, 21st U. S. I. ....	137
White, Capt., 25th U. S. I. ....	476
White, Capt. S., Pa. Vols. ....	374
White House .....	352
Whiting, Lieut., 23d U. S. I. ....	423
Whitehead, Ensign, 5th U. S. I. ....	272
Whitesborough, N. Y. ....	192
Wickwire, Ensign, N. Y. Vols. ....	194, 447
Willcocks, Lieut.-Col. Joseph. ....	68, 71, 100, 194, 418, 434, 445, 446, 447
Wilcox, Quartermaster O., N. Y. Vols .....	232
Wilcox, Justus .....	295
Wilkinson General James .....	141, 334, 343, 350, 355, 357, 358
Wilkinson, Alexander .....	331
Wilkinson, James .....	331
Williams, Capt., U. S. Artillery. ....	44, 150, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 161, 408
Williams, Lieut., 100th Regt. ....	33
Williams, Jonathan .....	330
Williams, Samuel .....	330
Williams, Wymont .....	330
Williams, Mr. ....	209
Williams, Fort .....	156, 157
Williamsville. ....	113, 280, 282, 293, 384, 389, 433, 438, 442, 443, 449, 451, 452
Willoughby, Township of .....	329
Wills, Major, N. Y. Vols .....	232
Wilson, Capt., Canadian Militia, ....	21
Wilson, Benjamin .....	295
Wilson, Capt., Royal Scots .....	33
Wilson, Brigade-Major John .....	442
Wilson, Eben .....	438

Wilson, Gilman.....	332
Wilson, Major, N. Y. Militia.....	209
Wilson, Philip.....	313
Wilson's House.....	75, 77, 78, 81, 335, 336, 423, 477
Winder, Brig.-General.....	275, 284, 285, 308
Winter, Major, De Watteville's Regt.....	220
Wisehorn's House.....	242, 249
Wolf, George.....	319
Wolf, Indian Chief.....	311
Wood, Major E. D., U. S. Engineers.....	18, 40, 47, 68, 100, 153, 155, 157, 158, 159, 202, 208, 209, 213, 214, 391, 418, 434, 454, 467, 468, 469, 471, 475, 477, 480.
Wood, Major James, Pa. Vols.....	99, 363, 368, 373, 379, 418, 423, 434
Wood, Alexander.....	293, 314, 315, 322, 323, 324
Wood, Jacob.....	291, 292
Woodhouse, Township of.....	16, 291, 454
Woodruff, E.....	313, 314
Woodruff, Richard.....	327
Woodworth, Capt., N. Y. Militia.....	385
Wooley, Joseph.....	313
Worth, Lieut.....	40, 46, 100, 337, 338, 422, 424
Wreath, Private, 11th U. S. I.....	137
Wright, Capt. J. M., 82nd Regt.....	220
Wright, Reuben.....	137
Wright, Mrs.....	325
Wyandot Indians.....	15, 16

## Y.

Yarmouth, Township of.....	287
Yates, Lieut., 4th U. S. Rifles.....	151, 440
Yates, J. B.....	192, 429
Yeo, Sir James L.....	18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 37, 57, 58, 59, 64, 70, 77, 78, 85, 134, 135, 148, 177, 179, 182, 185, 236, 240, 243, 244, 245, 258, 259, 263, 264, 266, 267, 268, 279, 289, 303, 304, 305, 358, 390, 455, 456, 457, 458.
York (Toronto).....	11, 12, 16, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31, 36, 54, 57, 58, 60, 61, 64, 65, 70, 71, 76, 77, 87, 96, 103, 115, 117, 125, 126, 127, 133, 134, 147, 172, 177, 179, 181, 183, 186, 187, 188, 191, 193, 197, 200, 231, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 256, 259, 264, 267, 269, 278, 279, 290, 294, 296, 305, 313, 327, 425, 456, 457, 460.
York County, Pa.....	368, 369
York, Duke of.....	251, 333
York, Ship of War.....	172
Young, Col., 8th Regt.....	36
Young, Dr., 103d Regt.....	169, 170
Young, Lieut., 8th Regt.....	62, 143, 145, 146, 149
Young, Henry.....	397
Young, John.....	325
Youngstown, N. Y.....	79, 80, 83, 85
Youngstown Batteries.....	82, 84
Yule, Lieut., Royal Engineers.....	95

## Z.

Zaneville, Ohio.....	75
Zantzing, Lieut., U. S. Artillery.....	151, 155
Zehender, Capt., Regt. De Watteville.....	220



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